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SPRING 2013

THE BIG HOUSE on 14th Street

Home Offices

Yann Martel, Carrie Catherine, Sherri Hrycay

Baba Gardens

Tips and Words of Wisdom

Historic Saskatoon

Time Traveller's Guide to 1913

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COVER: *Touring the Big House on 14th Street*, pg.10. Photo: Pete Lawrence Photography

HOME Front



Photo: Adrienne Perrot

With each issue of Saskatoon HOME, we are happy to be learning so much about our city, our neighbours, and the places where we all find sanctuary, rejuvenation and comfort. We adore our readers and are thrilled whenever you call or write us to tell us about yet another gem to discover or place to explore. We love it when you let us know what you'd like to see in upcoming issues.

Speaking of reader participation, the Saskatoon HOME cover goes to – drum roll – Peter Lawrence's shot of our featured and fondly monikered "The Big House on 14th Street." Flip back and take a look at the cover of this issue. You did that! We asked our readers to weigh in on their favourite and we were amazed with the response to our online poll. Over 700 of you cast your ballot. As your bonus prize, how about an acceptable way to take a peek inside this fascinating home, one many have coveted from the street? Don't be shy, come on inside and tour not only a beautifully renovated landmark, but also a wonderful collection of artifacts from fond places in our hearts, like the old Capitol Theatre (p.13).

Now to give you a glimpse of what else you'll find between these winning covers. One of those gems I was talking about is from reader Marla Kotelnikoff, who takes us on her own home build journey (p. 30). And if we haven't satisfied your voyeuristic appetite yet, how about an intimate look at the home studios of three of our own celebrated artists? (p. 36) Visit the customized home offices of writer Yann Martel, musician Carrie Catherine and milliner Sherri Hrycay. Learn how those spaces keep the creative juices flowing.

Just in time for spring planting, let's go outside and meet a few more of Saskatoon's talented artists: the Babas whose medium is soil, water, and seeds (p. 56). You can still find city backyards devoted to growing gardens that could feed half the neighbourhood—and often do! In keeping with those green thumbs, discover the 2013 Colour of the Year (p. 22).

After you learn the tricks of the babas' trade, pick up some handy advice on the top ten best tools to have around the house (p. 76). No matter what time of year, who isn't concerned about their home energy consumption? Learn what you can do to run a tight ship and even get a little help to do it (pg. 44).

Among our eclectic range of stories in this issue, Craig Sillipant takes us into the kitchen of one of Saskatoon's finest restaurants, Il Salici at The Willows (p. 64). Enjoy the cavorting spring lamb, Italian style!

Just before I leave you, I want to announce a new way we are embracing our techno-savvy readers. To complement our traditional print and digital issues available on our website, we're about to launch our Apple app, available through the App Store Newsstand. So fire up your handy iPad or iPhone, visit the App Store and download your free copy of Saskatoon HOME. In the meantime, happy spring and let's stay in touch!

AMANDA SOULODRE
OWNER & PUBLISHER

Suggestions? Comments? Questions? Want to see back issues of HOME? Visit www.saskatoon-home.ca

HOME

SASKATOON

Issue 21, Spring 2013

ISSN 1916-2324

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Saskatoon Home is published by:
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Telephone: 306-373-1833

Fax: 306-979-8955

www.saskatoon-home.ca

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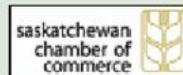
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Thank You To Our Spring Issue Reader Panel



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*Event Manager and Business Owner,
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Michelle Rezanoff

Realtor, Re/Max Saskatoon



Mitch Parkinson

*Owner, Saskatoon Drywall
- Co-Owner, VOX Developments*



Ryan Watson


Owner, Rocco Masons

INTERESTING STORIES, SELECTED BY INTERESTING PEOPLE

Saskatoon HOME is proud to present our Spring 2013 Reader Panel – people from Saskatoon who helped us select the stories for this issue.

We are dedicated to Saskatoon content. There are lots of great things to write about – but which subjects will most interest our readers? To help us make that decision, we first create a list of possible story ideas. We give them to our reader panel for their individual feedback and ranking,

then compile the results to determine our final story list.

You don't need any special skills to be on our panel, and the time required is minimal. The only qualification is your sincere opinion as a reader. Your single task will be to look at the story suggestions and rank them in order of your preference. 

If you would like more information on being on a future reader panel email info@saskatoon-home.ca with the subject line 'Reader Panel'.

We look forward to your interest – and your opinion!

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Sandra Epp and Ryan Keeping enjoy a beverage while casually viewing local art on the walls of The Woods Alehouse.

Photo Courtesy: Tourism Saskatoon

HOME – Art OUR TRAVELING ART EXHIBITION

What does the art in your home say about you?

Do your parents ask, "What IS that?" when they come to visit and see your new art acquisition? When it comes to art, a saying that rings true is "Judge not lest you be judged."

Is your taste contemporary or eclectic? Adventurous, colourful or maybe free spirited? Perhaps you have collected masks, nomadic kilims or even an icelandic hair painting from your worldly travels.

Does your children's art dominate your walls, in framed and fingerprinted wonder?

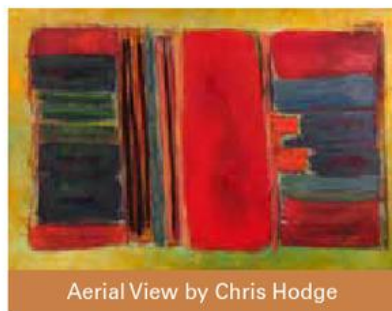
Their heights are also reflected on the kitchen wall; your commitment to family shines through. It could be that your favourite watercolour landscapes soothe you when the household gets too frantic.

Or perhaps you have adopted a "minimalist" look, as you are still searching for an artistic style that speaks to you.

Art is the Heartbeat of a Home

Whether hung on a wall, set on a shelf, or dramatically occupying a footprint of your floor, art creates the mood of a home for all of those who live there or come to visit.

Whether practiced or




Aerial View by Chris Hodge

experimenting, there is an opportunity in Saskatoon to view a traveling art exhibition that revolves around the theme of "HOME."

Home is a word that can take on many forms, and the art displayed at this exhibition will awaken your senses to the interpretation of this multi-dimensional concept.

Titled "HOME," this traveling art exhibition is brought to you by Saskatoon HOME magazine, and curated by Sandra Epp from Art @ Will.

The first stop for the show is at The Woods Alehouse on Second Avenue in downtown Saskatoon. This charming and casual environment invites you to grab a pint, and open your mind to a unique grouping of local artists. All pieces are for sale, ready to be bought and added to the walls of your home from March through to June.

A home is a very personal and ever evolving piece of our lives. We invite you to stop by and view the art that has been collected, and hope it will inspire you to fuel the artistic heartbeat of your home. 

Sandra Epp

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TOURING THE BIG HOUSE ON 14TH STREET

A UNIQUE AND BREATHTAKING ADVENTURE



AVIVA ZACK



PETE LAWRENCE

Like many people, whether they admit it or not, I drive slowly past certain intriguing homes around Saskatoon when the lights are on at night. One such house that has always caught my attention is what is commonly referred to as 'the big house' on 14th Street East. I recently had the opportunity to be invited inside to share what is surely one of Saskatoon's most unique homes. Now I can stop trying to discreetly slow down and look when I drive by. But I'll certainly still admire it for so many reasons, many I never would have dreamed.

Look down and there is a manhole cover by John East Ironworks that pays homage to the East family, the original owners of the home back in 1959.

Ron LeFrancois and Terry Swan had a similar experience of voyeurism with the big purple house that is now their home. Back in 1999, after their East College Park house burnt down, Ron knocked on the door of this home that had always intrigued him from the outside, but had never been able to peer into. He asked the homeowners if they would consider selling. Coincidentally, they had been planning to put the home on the market. Soon Ron and Terry moved in and up, getting to work on extensive renovations, starting with adding a second storey a few months after they settled in.

It's not just the second

storey that has been added over the years since they moved in. Throughout the home are numerous additions and special touches dreamt up by Ron and Terry. This is apparent as soon as you enter through their oversized front door. Once in the foyer, you see a massive pool table. Look up to see a large round skylight that gives added height and natural light to the flat modernist roofline. Look down and there is a manhole cover by John East Ironworks that pays homage to the East family, the original owners of the home back in 1959.

Down a spiral staircase with railings Ron designed and had laser cut are movie relics from the old Capitol Theatre including a ticket booth complete with mannequin standing at attention prepared to take our tickets for entry. Their theatre room has a 90-inch screen behind red motorized theatre curtains, ample comfortable seating and fiber optic lighting on the ceiling, which gives the real feeling of being at the cinema.

Adjacent to the theatre room, a children's bedroom was recently converted to a wine room. The walls and ceiling are covered in bricks installed by a stonemason from England. Since Ron and Terry frequently entertain, they enjoy having a space to house their extensive wine collection.

Back on the main floor are two bedrooms with imported slate tile and hardwood flooring from the barracks in Moose Jaw that they had distressed. Both the slate and the hardwood are carried throughout

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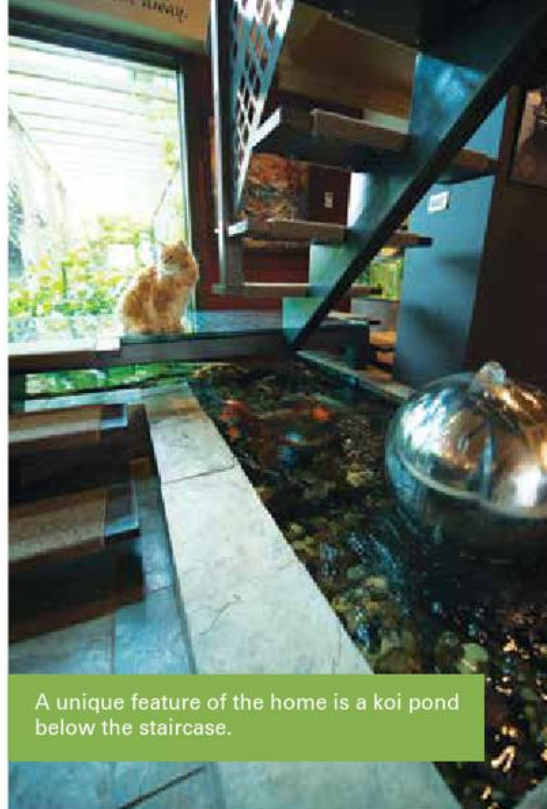
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Ron and Terry created an open floor plan to accommodate their love of entertaining.



A unique feature of the home is a koi pond below the staircase.

the home, with the tile even extending into their yard. A definite upgrade from the orange shag carpet that was apparently everywhere when they moved in.

Repurposing was an important part of many of their renovations. In the main floor bathroom, Ron and Terry had a laboratory counter from Habitat for Humanity cut down and installed to use as a vanity.

Toward the back of the home is an indoor pool, which was originally a detached building, but is now connected to the main part of the house. Beside the pool is a large exotic fish tank, something Ron greatly enjoys. His love of fish is even more obvious when peering at the koi pond directly below the staircase. You literally walk atop the koi going upstairs over clear plexiglass. Upstairs is an open loft office space and a massive master bedroom and spacious ensuite. !👉



Multiple tropical plants and tropical fish in a large aquarium adorn the sunny indoor pool room.



A beautiful wine cellar houses Ron and Terry's extensive wine collection.



Down a spiral staircase are movie relics from the old Capitol Theatre including a ticket booth complete with mannequin standing at attention prepared to take our tickets.

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Terry and Ron's bedroom has an exotic feel with zebra prints and artwork from their extensive travels. There are four wooden pillars still with their authentic square nails, circa New York 1700s.

The ensuite has a luxurious feel. Separate areas have Italian sinks found on eBay. They built large his and hers walk-in closets with repurposed entertainment units to organize their clothes. There is also a sizable bathtub, a steam shower with sound system and multiple jets, and towel warmers from England, also found on eBay.

Back downstairs in the kitchen there are even more online purchases and repurposed items. Very unique kitchen countertops

are made from reclaimed lanes from KG Bowl. A detail not commonly seen in a kitchen are large garage toolboxes that Ron had installed as kitchen drawers.

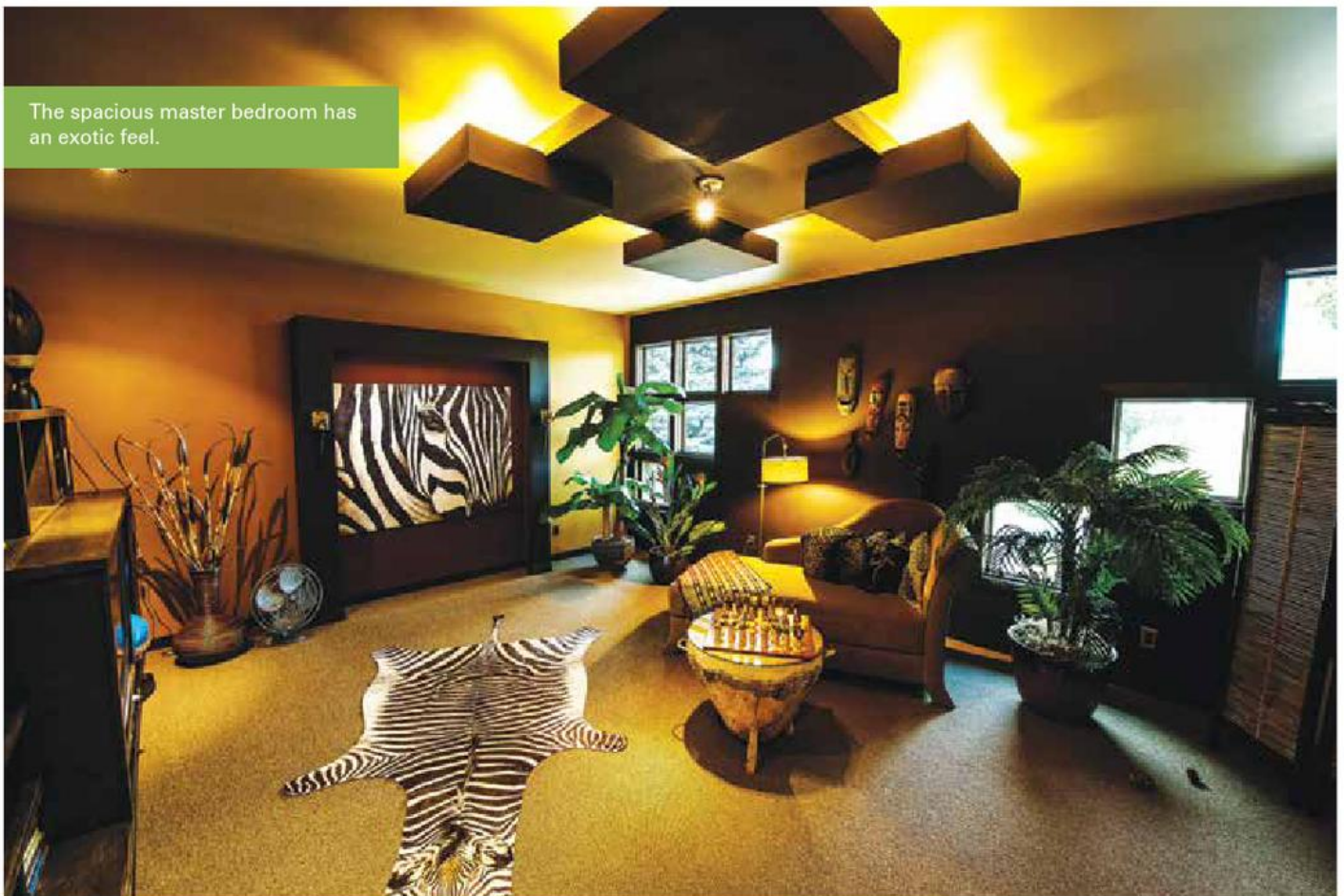
Out back is Terry's favourite area, a large outdoor kitchen and area for entertaining. After removing dozens of trees that had taken over their yard, Terry was able to put her love of gardening to good use, creating a beautiful backyard oasis.

With years of repurposing, reclaiming and renovating, their home projects are just about complete. "Next spring we're going to work on the front yard. We're planning a circular driveway, limestone sculptures and fountains. Then we really are done," says Ron. 🐾

Repurposed items - like old bowling lanes used as kitchen countertops - can be found throughout the home.



The spacious master bedroom has an exotic feel.



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The quote that Ron and Terry have displayed across the length of their kitchen seems to perfectly sum up the heart and soul they have put into their very unique home. "Enjoy the journey. Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take, but by the number of moments that take your breath away."

The big house on 14th certainly does just that. (H)

Aviva Zack

Curious?

If there is a local home that intrigues you, one you too drive by slowly hoping to catch a glimpse inside, perhaps we can do it for you. Drop us an email at info@saskatoon-home.ca.



There are so many unique details in Ron and Terry's home. Here are some of the most distinctive:

- Manhole cover in the foyer paying tribute to the East family, and John East Ironworks (a historically significant family to Saskatoon)
- Koi pond under plexiglass beneath the staircase
- Circular skylight at the entrance provides both lighting and architectural intrigue to the exterior of the home
- Repurposed kitchen countertops from KG Bowl bowling lanes
- Garage toolboxes as kitchen cabinetry
- In-floor heating throughout the home
- In-home theatre with fiber optics
- Sauna room with therapeutic infrared heating and television
- 300 year old wooden pillars found on eBay in the master bedroom

Life Lesson #34 - The Art of Compromise



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TOM KENNEDY



PETE LAWRENCE

It's summer in Saskatchewan. In one ear you hear the sound of water flowing over rocks making a gurgling sound you find restful and meditative. In the other you hear birds singing. The sun is glinting off a perfectly pruned and rounded evergreen like an ancient lantern. Your eye follows a winding path to a pagoda just over a small red bridge. It's peaceful. You are contemplative, you breathe deeply. You are experiencing a Japanese garden.

Gerry Rorick of Urban Paradise Landscape Creations

had a client looking for a small Japanese garden to escape to in the backyard. With enthusiasm, a number of client meetings and a desire to create something unique, he got to it.


"The first thing I did was read and research everything I could find about Japanese gardens," Rorick states. "Certainly we discussed them in horticulture school and I have always been fascinated by the culture, but I wanted to make it feel right for the client."

Rorick already knew that a Japanese garden reflects

the local, natural landscape, so his plan had to include Saskatchewan temperate zone shrubs, plants and small shaped evergreen trees hardy enough for winter. He spent time finding exactly the right plant and shrub variety of maple, cedar and juniper.

He knew the garden required carefully chosen pieces where each element was contoured and flowed into one another with no hard edges or angles. Representing the elements of wind, water, sky and earth was something he also needed to include in the plan. "You might

have a rock and a juniper side by side. Although each piece is separate, they must blend together," he points out.

Water was important to refresh the spirit so a small waterfall feature was a part of the concept – still to be completed. Locally sourced sand and rock were necessary and, as a bonus, kept the garden low maintenance. Meticulously pruned trees helped shape the setting and using evergreens meant a part of the creation could be appreciated in the winter months. 

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The structural components – the pagoda and bridge – were hand built by Gerry in true Japanese garden tradition: all natural.

For night lighting, handmade lanterns could be positioned to light a pathway, and symbolically, light the way to understanding our universe.

"You could spend a lifetime putting together a perfect Japanese garden," Gerry says, "but for my company, we still need to do outdoor renovations, put in paving stones and sidewalks, do pruning and hedge trimming, and the regular maintenance that all summer projects require."

Want to create a Japanese garden that's a miniature of our world? Costs depend on the intricacies of the plan, plants chosen, size and other details. But it boils down to what you want to spend and who you want to do it. Peaceful gardening to all. 

Tom Kennedy



JAPANESE GARDENS

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- Step 2:** A dedication to using all things "natural" including selecting and pruning local plants, evergreens and shrubs and hand-making features from natural products like rocks and wood.
- Step 3:** A dedication to make features flow from one to another with a nod to incorporating the four elements of earth, water, wind, and sky. Foliage, not flower oriented. Find focal points that easily move the eye around.
- Step 4:** A plan that can give you enjoyment of the gardens in four seasons with proper layout and placement, perspective, and is low maintenance, except for regular bi-annual pruning.



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- Spiral trees - Alberta Dwarf Spruce • Pom trees - Eastern Red Cedars • Red stems with reddish orange flowers (left front) - Begonias
- Groundcover (with small yellow flowers) - Lysimachia (Creeping Jenny) • Taller narrow-leaved plant behind pom tree on left - Hosta 'Praying Hands'
- The taller shrubs with white flowers (in front of spiral spruce) - Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost' • Small Purple plant on far right - Oxalis triangularis (Purple Clover)

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EMERALD: COLOUR OF THE YEAR FOR 2013

TURNS OUT, IT IS EASY BEING GREEN

Green has never meant 'go' more than now. This season, greens herald the coming spring in Pantone's spring colour forecast. And the parade begins with the sophisticated Emerald, recently proclaimed 2013 Colour of the Year. It's "a colour of elegance and beauty that enhances our sense of well-being, balance and harmony" and you'll already be seeing its influence in fashion, décor and industry.

For over 20 years, Pantone, the global authority on colour, has surveyed the designers of New York Fashion Week and beyond to bring to the public the season's most important colour trends. This year's colour report previews the most prominent hues for spring.

Considering the Zeitgeist

Leatrice (Lee) Eiseman heads up the Eiseman Center for Color Information and Training in

Seattle, and is the executive director of the Pantone Color Institute®. She's a sought-after speaker, writer and colour expert, and author of eight books on colour, many award winners. She spoke with Saskatoon HOME just before the 2013 Colour of the Year was announced.


"It is the symbolic colour for all design applications. I mention symbolic as the general 'zeitgeist' is taken into account as well as additional homework that I do

when I travel around the world looking for clues." The zeitgeist being the incorporation of the spirit and feeling of the time.

Spring Greenery

According to the Pantone report, "Sophisticated Emerald, a lively, radiant green, inspires insight and clarity while enhancing our sense of well-being. Like the first signs of spring, Tender Shoots, a vibrant yellow-green, is invigorating,

active and cheerful, while Grayed Jade, a subtle, hushed green with a gray undertone, brings about a mood of quiet reflection and repose. From one extreme to the other, combining all three greens presents an intriguing choice much like Mother Nature intended."

Looking back, the 2012 Colour of the Year was Tangerine Tango, "a spirited, reddish orange, provided the energy boost we needed to recharge and move forward." This year you can get back to nature and embrace the green hues that tie a space together, and bring out your earthy side. 

Karin Melberg Schwier

Check www.Pantone.com for the specific Pantone formulas and a downloadable Pantone Fashion Colors Spring 2013. For more about Leatrice Eiseman: www.colorexpert.com.



Photo Courtesy
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ROOM TO BREATHE

IS AN ADDITION WHAT YOUR HOME REALLY NEEDS?



ASHLEIGH MATTERN

Photo Courtesy: J.A.B.A. Construction

You love your neighbourhood. You love your house. But you need more space. Is an addition the answer to your spatial woes?

"It's really dependent on what their needs are," said Lindsay Fuchs, corporate operations manager with JABA Construction. "Is their family expanding, or is it just because they feel cramped, or is it just for an update, cosmetic? It's really dependent on what the homeowner is looking for, and what they actually need, and what they can afford, of course."

Sometimes you can get away with reconfiguring a space, or simply knocking down a wall, says Fuchs. An addition might be the best choice if someone is joining the household and you're looking to build an extra room, or if you're ready for some extra space that you couldn't afford

when you first bought the home.

Before you start, though, make sure you can commit the time it takes to build an addition. It can take a year or longer to create an addition from start to finish, depending on the complexity of the project.

Everyone chooses an addition for different reasons; knowing your reasons before you start will make the planning process easier.

Decisions, Decisions

From a full addition with a basement, to a sun room, to moving a wall a few feet out, the options for adding more space to your house are varied.

For one project, JABA demolished the house right down to the studs, built an addition on the back, and then jacked the

house up to increase the ceiling height in the basement, adding larger windows.

A small, mid-range addition costs around \$150,000, says Fuchs, while a larger, mid-range addition would run closer to \$250,000. A higher range addition might end up being comparable to the cost of building new on the same lot, so sometimes a better option is to demolish the house and start again from scratch.

Then again, with an addition, you still have the option of living at home while the renovation is happening. If you're building new, you'll have to factor in finding somewhere else to stay.

Money Matters

Budgeting is tricky with additions because costs can vary

widely depending on what the homeowner wants done, and the quality level of the finishes.

You also have to keep in mind that some costs might not be immediately apparent. An addition has to work with an existing structure, which poses certain challenges.

Because an addition has to mesh with the current home, if the electrical or plumbing is out of date, the whole house may need to be brought up to code. Matching the exterior of the house can also be tricky, so some homeowners opt to redo the whole exterior.

"When we're talking about budget with our clients, we usually ask them what they feel they want to invest into their home," said Fuchs. "We'll ask them how much they're

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comfortable investing, how much they're able to invest, and that gives us a really good idea about where we can start in order to start putting a budget together."

They'll include allowances for items like flooring, fixtures, and cabinetry, and give a number to go to the bank with if the homeowner is applying for a loan. Another option is refinancing to leverage existing equity in the home, this is something a mortgage professional can assist with.

There's no doubt that building an addition is an expensive investment, so you might also consider doing the renovation in steps. For example, bring all of your electrical and plumbing up to code in advance, so that there are no surprises when you tear down a wall to start construction on the addition.

Do it Right the First Time


Planning ahead can save everyone headaches down the road.

"You don't want, after an addition is done, to decide to put a bathroom in, or a kitchen in, because then you're going to rip it all apart again," said JABA president Dave Anderchek.

Part of the planning phase includes checking with the city for zoning laws to make sure you can build the type of addition you have in mind. This is something you can tackle yourself, or you can hire an architect to assist you. If you're building up, hiring an engineer may be necessary to ensure the foundation is suitable to carry a second floor.

This all may sound like an awful lot of work, but as Anderchek points out, if you get the right contractor, they will help you along the way and help ease the stress.

That said, make sure you're hooking up with the right contractor. Do some research before you commit to anything, and once you do, ensure you have a proper contract with your contractor so everyone is on the same page and there are no surprises.

If you want to dig deeper into this topic, the Saskatoon & Region Home Builders' Association has a number of articles on their website, including what to look for in a professional renovator, all the way to warranty follow-up. 

Ashleigh Mattern



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HOW TO AVOID BUDGET SURPRISES

Lindsay Fuchs and Dave Anderchek from JABA Construction share their tips for staying within a budget:

- Be realistic when figuring out the cost of your addition; you can't compare it to new housing prices.
- Always allow 15% for the unknowns.
- Keep a separate pot for extras. What if you find flooring you love that's just outside your budget?
- Look into grants for choosing energy efficient options.
- Work with the contractor to find affordable finishes. This is where most homeowners go over budget.
- Plan to do renovations in steps over several years.
- Ensure prompt payments. Arguments over payment will extend the life of the project.



AFTER



RAISING A HOME



BEFORE

KIJENGA

A NEW WAY TO CONNECT HOMEOWNERS WITH CONTRACTORS

Kijenga is based on the modified Swahili phrase meaning "to build," and that is exactly what Saskatoon entrepreneur and founder of Kijenga.com, Kevin Kindrachuk, plans to help local homeowners do.

This online platform is a free project posting tool for homeowners who are looking to hire service providers in the construction industry. Looking to have a fence built? Room painted? Kitchen renovated? House cleaned? There are over 100 services to choose from and it is growing.

Contractors who are Kijenga members instantly get notified when you post

your project. From their easy-to-use dashboard, contractors are able to reply with a quote or estimate, request more information or set up a home consultation.

As a homeowner, when creating your post, you will be given guidance in the types of questions a contractor would need to know in order to quote. The more details you provide – the better. You can even post pictures and request a desired completion date.


Kindrachuk and his co-founders have officially launched in Saskatoon and look forward to ramping things up across Saskatchewan in

2013. "Through personal experience and extensive market research, we found that 86% of homeowners have trouble connecting with reputable contractors and receiving timely and accurate quotes. We address this pain point at Kijenga.com."

Homeowners are able to view contractors in their area, post a project, access the unique hammer rating system to establish credibility, read the industry blog, and gather information on what to look for when hiring a contractor.

On the flip side, Kindrachuk stated that, "72% of contractors don't have a website and this

option would get them online with a professional online profile, qualified leads, and a way to engage with their clients and build their reputation."

Kijenga.com is an opportunity to help homeowners find the right person for the job. As always when inviting someone into your home, do your homework. Start with an online search, speaking to past clients, defining a contract with pricing and expectations, and asking detailed questions at the beginning of a project. 

Ashleigh Mattern



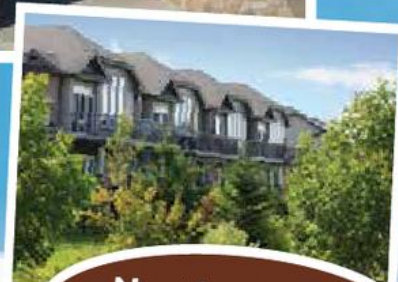
EVERGREEN

Take a stroll through Evergreen, Saskatoon's newest neighbourhood, where two rows of 50-year-old Scots Pines wait to welcome you!

Unique in its location, Evergreen is surrounded by a combination of parks, open fields and nature; including an area preserved as a native prairie remnant and natural wildlife corridor to the South Saskatchewan River Valley.

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This rendering of Evergreen's Village Square and surrounding development is conceptual and intended for illustrative purposes only. It may not represent the actual resulting built form.

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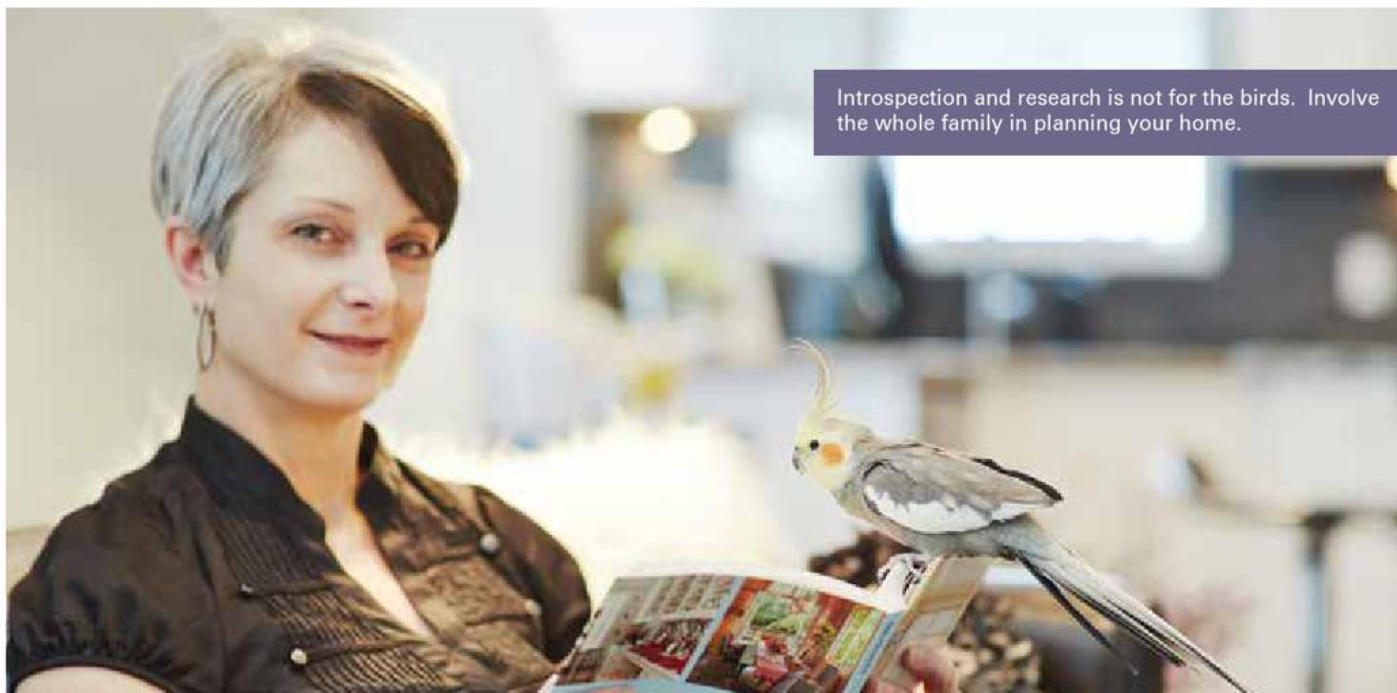
MEASURE TWICE, BUILD ONCE



MARLA KOTELNIKOFF



PETE LAWRENCE



Introspection and research is not for the birds. Involve the whole family in planning your home.

Saskatoon HOME reader, Marla Kotelnikoff, told us about her experience in building her home (well, actually, it was her husband Murray who emailed us proudly about his wife's skills). We found the lessons Marla applied to their new home build both practical and inspiring. We asked her to write about her journey, and she welcomed us in with open arms. Thank you! Here is her story.

"We measured our furniture and drew them into the plans. Empty floor plans are deceiving, but a measurement as generic as a twin bed can provide the perspective needed to decipher the room."

Do you hear that sound? Lean in. Closer. No, it's not an infestation of termites, but it will crawl all over you. It's the pinch of "if only" and the sting

of "I wish we had." It's the itch that lingers, and it manifests as the regretful mutterings of penitent homeowners wincing at lost opportunities. But don't dial the exterminator (or your therapist) just yet! Explicit intentions and sharp strategy are all the tools you will need to build your new home successfully and triumph over what could be bugging you.

When my husband and I embarked on our first home building experience, we resolved to sidestep the remorse. Building a new home is about more than a bedroom count. It is a study in function as much as aesthetic, and even show-stopping style can't overcome poor design. Everything from specific furniture placement to the exact purpose of every nook and cranny was carefully considered before a single board was cut.

Is It Right For You

After determining budget and location for our



A generously sized island was planned to facilitate the endless functions of the family kitchen.

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Even the basement reflects the Kotelnikoff family lifestyle, and a unique crafter's nook complements the family's personality.



family of four, we began our research by incessantly viewing show homes. They are a wonderful resource, but exercise prudence as you consider their features. They are staged to look beautiful and to draw attention away from shortcomings, and are not necessarily livable for you. We kept our marvelling to a minimum, inhaled the inspiration, and juxtaposed style with savvy as our vision began to emerge.

We questioned our way through everything from layout to serviceability. Would that bonus room really be a bonus, or would its destiny be a bean bag chair and dad's old Atari due to lack of size and purpose? We thought about negative space, too. Was it more important to have a soaring entryway, or living space in the bedroom

above? What looked impressive at first glance threatened to steal function when we weren't looking.

Get it Down on Paper

After much footwork, we settled on a terrific homebuilder who could customize. My husband is a draftsman by trade and he converted the plans we favoured into computerized drawings. We poured over those drawings for weeks, enlarging and shrinking rooms, rearranging closets, and shifting windows with the click of a mouse. We measured our furniture and drew them into the plans. Empty floor plans are deceiving, but a measurement as generic as a twin bed can provide the perspective needed to decipher the room. If your homebuilder does not offer this service, seek it out! 🛠️

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It was invaluable to immerse ourselves in the complete picture before we committed. We walked through the house in our minds, hung up our coats (oops, no closet), prepped at the countertop (too crowded), lounged in the living room (the couch blocks the window), crawled under the covers (king bed doesn't fit), and strolled through the yard (sorry, kids, the trampoline's too big). Before you sign on the dotted line, determine what determines you!

The critical family space in our home is the kitchen/living area. We purposefully created a room that embraces us specifically without customizing to a fault. We chose a very large kitchen island that comfortably seats six, and it serves as a dining table, prep space, buffet server, baking counter, games table, homework space, and computer desk. We bucked the trend by forgoing a hanging light fixture over the expected dining area and got instant flexibility. Currently, it functions as a charming reading nook, but it can be reborn as a dining area, a workspace, or even an herb garden with little effort. Don't just create a dining room;

create a room that can be a dining room—or something else! Make choices that provide options, not expectations.

Worth it to Dig Deep

The best decision we made in this entire process was to include total basement development from the start. We would not be able to call it our dream home if the basement was still a nightmare—uninviting, unusable and uninhabitable. Our lack of skill was a given. For us, any potential “DIY” savings would have resulted in sub par construction and marriage counselling appointments.

The enslavement inherent in a perpetual “to do” list of that magnitude was not appealing either. Let's face it. The majority of us are bullied by our basement. We will either put up a piece of drywall once a year (and no one will want to go down there), or just fail to accomplish anything at all (and no one will want to go down there). Home listings have attested to this for years (“built in 2003, basement still ‘open for development’”). Now our whole family enjoys the whole house.




Mudroom or “Footwear Lounge”? Plan for organization and then add the glamour you crave!

All in Equal Measure

Building a home means the freedom to create, so do it with meticulous fervour. While you may need to rethink the sports lounge in the master (sorry, guys), you can avoid the pitfall of regret with premeditated honesty.

The bones of the house dictate the life it sustains, so let function be the bug in your

ear. Measure your furniture, measure your expectations, and measure your lifestyle. But whatever you do, measure twice. 

Marla Kotelnikoff

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"I love my little studio," says author Yann Martel. The Booker Prize-winner chose a practical solution to satisfy his need for a work-life balance. Martel eschewed the stereotypical drafty garret in favour of an energy-efficient backyard studio.

Martel used to have a tiny office at the University of Saskatchewan where he

went to write. After he and his partner Alice Kuipers started a family, the commute time from his Nutana home to the university started to cut into the day. So the *Life of Pi* writer carved out a separate creative space in the same dimensions of his old university office – in the backyard.

"What I like about my studio is that it's a physical 

Yann Martel, Writer



Martel's tidy workspace enables him to focus on his writing.

removal from the domestic space," says Martel. "I used to work in the attic of my house and it was a nice space but because it was a part of the house, domestic chores would sort of beep in my head." Martel says when he's in his 10 by 12 foot studio, he can focus better as it's a space devoted entirely to work.

The scale of his studio space is deliberately small. The modest building melds in perfectly with the urban landscape. To the unsuspecting eye, it could easily be mistaken for a tool shed. "I wanted something small. Writers don't need big spaces. It's not like I'm a painter or even a musician. As a writer, I just need space for my desk," says Martel.

When he enters the space, the prolific writer likes to "huddle like in the cockpit of a plane" and fly away into his imagination. The separate space, close to home but not right in the house, makes Martel more efficient in his work. All he has to do is step outside his back door and he's ready to work on his current project.

"When I enter here I feel I'm entering my novel. I feel like in a sense that my novel lives here so when I enter, I'm entering my imagination. My characters are always in my

head but when I'm outside of here, I can't really express them. When I'm here, they can come alive," says Martel.

Apart from the obvious proximity to his home, the other advantage of his backyard studio is that it's portable. "It's just resting on some flat bricks. Once I move the electric and the cable it can be moved. I had it well built. Good windows. Good solid walls. Lots of spray foam insulation. So, if we ever move, I'd like to bring it with us," says Martel.

The key advantage to going small is the energy efficiency of the space. In winter, it's heated with electricity and passive solar from the large south-facing window. Martel had two vented skylights installed so he can circulate the air, as the studio gets quite warm in the summer season. Martel also had task lighting installed to illuminate his work area.

Although the studio has four windows, Martel's computer faces a wall. "I hung an abstract painting to the left of my computer but I don't want the distraction of things moving."

Martel's humble studio is proof that writers don't need monumental spaces in which to work and that small can be beautiful, efficient and productive.



The Life of Pi, Martel's bestseller, was successfully adapted for the screen and garnered 11 Academy Awards.



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Carrie Catherine, Musician

The Caswell Hill troubadour composes a song for her new musical, "Somewhere, SK."

Like Martel, musician Carrie Catherine works from home in her specialized studio space. She had a home team advantage when the decision to construct her infill studio was made. Her handy husband, real estate developer Curtis Olson, had the chops to put the whole project together.

The space-efficient infill studio sits discreetly in the back half of their revenue property in Caswell Hill. Home is right next-door where the couple converted a former grocery store into a live-work performance space, The HayLoft.

"It feels like a playhouse," says Carrie Catherine. It's only 300 square-feet in size but there is sufficient space for

a little sofa, a stage, a desk and an elevated reading nook with great windows. The heat source is radiant concrete floors. Her husband has his own carpentry workshop attached to the back of the studio.

The best feature of the studio is that it acts as a separation between work and family demands for the busy mother. Curtis and Carrie decided that it was best for the "ecology of their family" for her to have a dedicated creative space apart from the hustle and bustle of a big life shared with an active toddler and an entrepreneurial partner.

"Part of my soul is finding its expression here," says Carrie Catherine who is by nature a homebody and



Carrie Catherine curls up with her MacBook in her cozy book nook.

finds that life touring on the road can be a drain. Her new studio has turned into a cozy retreat space, too. Sometimes the musician just lights some candles in her studio spaces and stares out the window. It's also where she seeks inspiration and energy from CBC Radio's Rich Terfry's Drive and Q.

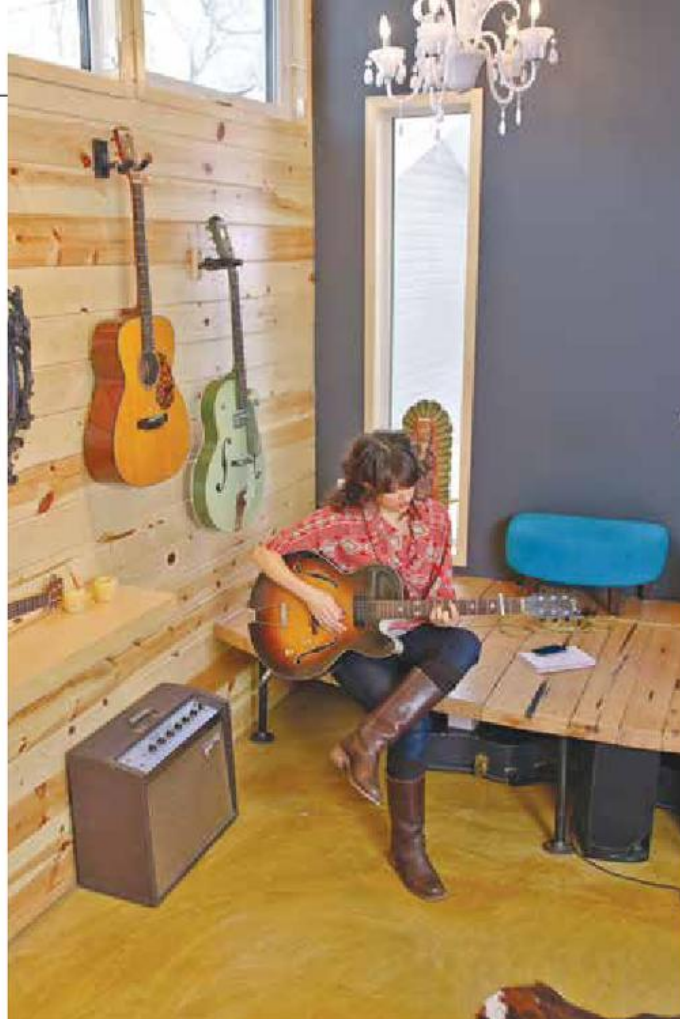
The couple once resided in a beautiful downtown loft but the open design made it challenging for her to write songs and rehearse. Carrie Catherine admits that before she had her studio she used to get "frustrated" when the urge to play the guitar hit and she just wanted to create in solitude.

"Before the space was finished, I was sure I wanted it to be just my space, 'Girls Only!' But once I started using it, that feeling changed.

Now I love it when my young son Eliot ambles up to the microphone and starts to sing. He and Curtis are part of it now, too," she says.

The musician also hosts the occasional studio party for her close friends where they crack open a bottle of wine, order in food and just hang out in her playhouse.

"I love that it's my space and that I can control it," says Carrie Catherine. "It never gets old for me. Having my own studio is great. This feels good and it inspires me a lot."



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Sherri Hrycay, Milliner

Sherri Hrycay, a Saskatoon milliner (hat creator) also works in a repurposed space. Her former garage is now home to the coolest hat collection in Saskatoon. In 2009, the hat designer and her husband Michael decided to convert the family's tandem garage into a working space for Sová Design Millinery.

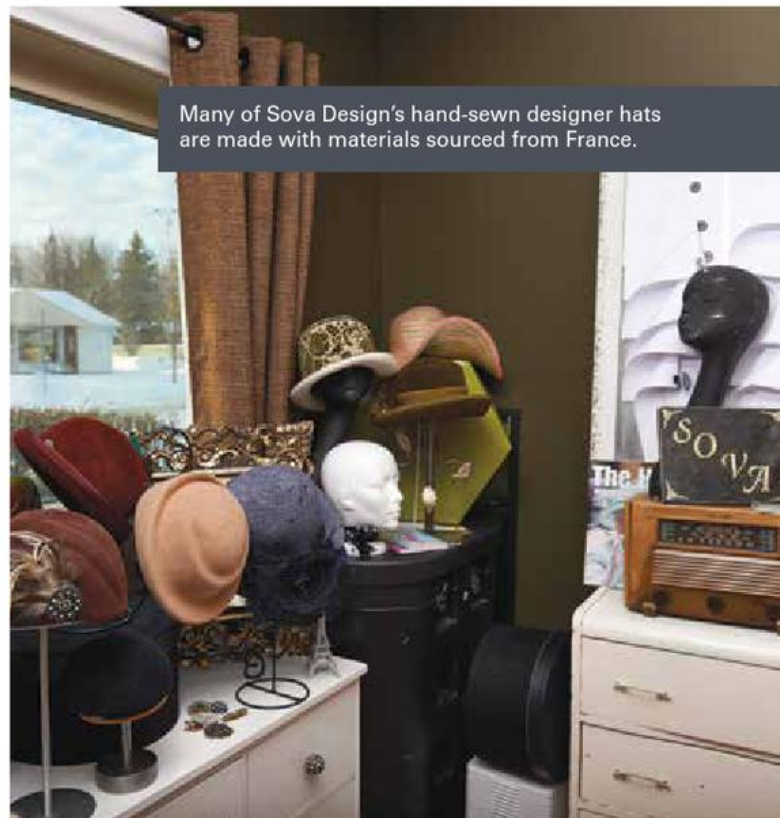
"The garage was full of stuff anyway so we weren't using it for the cars," laughs Hrycay. The 700 square-foot space features forest green walls, terracotta floors, white-trimmed windows, two of which face south like eyes peering out at the driveway.

Domed ceiling lights illuminate the space but task lighting is an outstanding issue for the milliner, who stitches her creations by hand from the comfort and ease of her

living room. The studio space is used mainly as a showroom, playroom and dress-up corner for customers, family and friends.

The whole vibe of the studio is 'European vintage meets suburban Saskatoon.' A brown wing-backed chair makes a comfortable seat for visitors who can survey the hat stands from a comfy perch. A cream room divider artfully conceals the tools of the trade, sewing machines, odd stacks of burnished wooden hat molds and thread, scissors and felt.


The theme for the designer's current collection is 'Paris in the 1920s.' The décor reflects that European aesthetic. The room boasts an antique treadle sewing machine, a reproduction of Victrola record player and, naturally, artfully stacked round floral



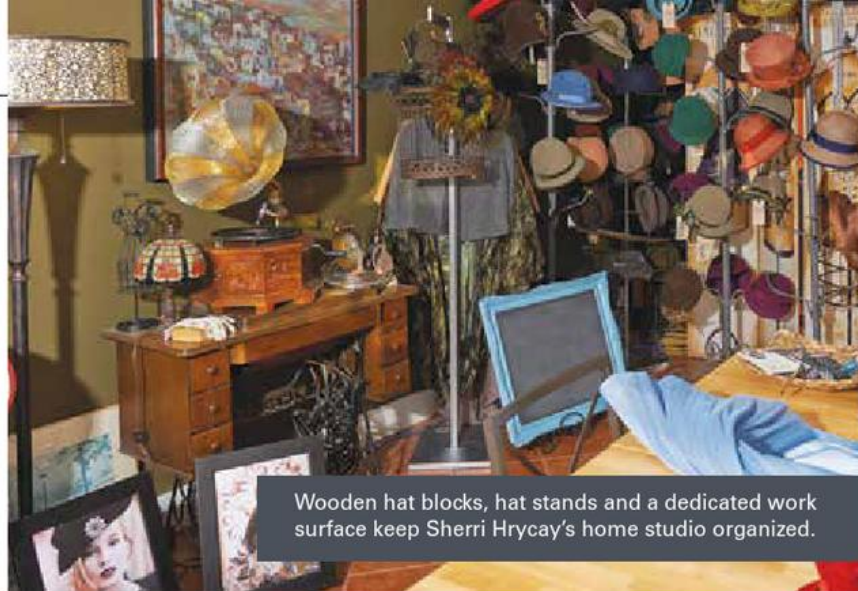
hatboxes. A white cabinet under the two windows is home to flirtatious fascinators, a rouge cloche straw hat and one elegant white fur-trimmed brown number perfect for a chilly Saskatoon winter.

The whole scene reeks of 1920s boomtown prosperity. Hrycay admits that *Midnight in Paris* and *Downton Abbey* are huge aesthetic influences on her current work but a new passion for the 1940s *The Avengers* has emerged recently so local fashionistas can watch for signs of that era in her future works.

The mother of three originally trained to be a teacher. She took up serious millinery about a decade ago after the birth of her first child, took a break to raise her family, and then picked up the needle again full-time in 2010. The self-taught artist studied with Rose Cory, milliner to the late Queen Mother, and Calgary couturier Mithe de Fontenay. She and husband Michael also take romantic hat holidays in Southern France where they hole up in a quaint cottage. It's also where the savvy designer has learned to source vintage found materials.

Sová Design's tag line is "Not Your Grandmother's Hat" and it's not her grandmother's studio either. This warm, elegant and inviting space makes the perfect backdrop for Hrycay's whimsical hats. It's a little slice of Paris circa 1920 carefully tucked away in Hrycay's Varsity View neighbourhood. 

Patricia Dawn Robertson



Wooden hat blocks, hat stands and a dedicated work surface keep Sherri Hrycay's home studio organized.







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WHAT'S IN YOUR THERMAL ENVELOPE?

'The whole is more than the sum of its parts' never applied more aptly than to the question: how energy efficient is your home? Home science has leap-frogged ahead in recent years so homeowners can take advantage of improved technology and design smarts to create financial and comfortable domestic bliss.

"All of the elements work together in every house no matter what," insists Kent Mohn, Vice-President,

Operations and Project Management, Sun Ridge Residential Inc., a national pioneer in the field of housing science and the original licensed service provider of the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses program.

"High efficient furnaces or domestic hot water systems within a poorly insulated thermal envelope won't give you a high efficient house." Benefits achieved from a high efficiency furnace, heat recovery

ventilation or hot water heater are mitigated by leaky windows or poor air ventilation.

Rating System

Third-Party Assurance

"Energy efficient components and home construction allows all elements—the thermal envelope, mechanical systems, moisture and ventilation systems—to work in concert," says Mohn. He says the beauty of the EnerGuide Rating System is that it's a third party,

government-tested assurance that a home is rated according to nationally recognized standards, supported by Natural Resources Canada, that applies to all new and existing homes.

"The EnerGuide evaluation and rating takes into account all systems and features of your particular home," Mohn explains. "Your rating won't be the same as your neighbour's. If you buy a furnace or water heater, there's an EnerGuide label that gives you the rating!"

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for that piece of equipment. But we're talking about a complete rating system that takes into account all factors in your house and provides a standardized rating for the mechanical system, furnace, water heater, ventilation, heat recovery, insulation values, and air leakage rates."

Pinpointing Problems, Providing Resources

Two big problems homeowners face: not knowing what to upgrade and often not having the money necessary to do it. An EnerGuide evaluation helps solve both.

"Without it, you don't know what will have the biggest impact," says Mohn. "So many homeowners want to improve efficiency, but how? There are many motivations: save money, be more comfortable and more environmentally responsible about green house gases. The in-laws replaced windows, so maybe that's most important. Neighbours insulated walls, so we'd better do that. The brother gets a new furnace, so maybe that's what we have to do. The evaluation will pinpoint the things that will give you the bang for your buck in your home."

The provincial government support has been "phenomenal," Mohn says. It subsidizes half the cost of evaluations and then offers grants to help with fixing problem areas. Initial EnerGuide evaluations cost \$300 (homeowners pay half). Once the advisor suggests improvements, grants for upgrades like a new furnace, windows and doors, and insulation are available. Once that work is completed, a second evaluation is done for \$200 (homeowners again only pay half). A new rating for the upgraded home is provided. The homeowner then not only enjoys energy savings, but also has valuable documentation for potential resale.

With a new build, an EnerGuide rating assures homeowners that the house was built properly in the first place. It's not enough that a home is "built to code." It's much easier to build it right with high efficiency standards from the ground up than it is to retrofit.

Making a Big Difference

Companies like Sun Ridge have been working on housing science for years. Today, homeowners and contractors are much more aware of what's possible.

"Still, there are people who don't realize what a difference energy efficiencies can make. Many assume that everyone has more or less the same energy bills," Mohn says. "Upgrades quickly pay for themselves. But sometimes it's difficult to convince a homeowner that putting an extra percentage on their mortgage upfront to make it a high energy

efficient home is worth it. We've evaluated homes that essentially have lost thousands of dollars over the years because simple upgrades weren't done."

For more information, contact Sun Ridge Residential in Saskatoon, or Natural Resources Canada at www.nrcan.gc.ca. 

Karin Melberg Schwier



ENERGY BITES:


- Savvy homebuyers should ask about energy efficient details in construction, and look for national certification labels such as ENERGY STAR® for New Homes, EnerGuide for New Homes, and the new R-2000.
- Until October 31st, 2013, Saskatchewan homeowners may be eligible for up to \$5,000 in home energy-upgrade grants through the Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses Retrofit Grant Program. Homeowners must have an initial evaluation before work is started, and a second once the work is done. The first evaluation must be completed by June 30, 2013.
- Replacing your domestic hot water heater with an ENERGY STAR® and ecoENERGY qualified instantaneous system can earn a \$400 grant.
- ENERGY STAR® windows, doors and skylights can save you up to 12% on your annual heating and cooling costs.
- An uninsulated basement can account for 20% – 35% of the total heat loss in your home.
- Homeowners can receive a rebate up to \$650 for an ENERGY STAR® qualified gas furnace.

VIGILANT EYE KEY TO SPOTTING INEFFICIENT, FAILING HOME SYSTEMS

Ideally your house should be a tight ship in order to give the individual home systems a chance to work to their full energy efficient potential. Jayden Rohachuk is a technical representative with Nu-Trend Industries, a distributor for Carrier furnaces, and heating, ventilating and air conditioning products. He reminds homeowners to "look at the big picture" but cast a critical eye on the individual systems, too.

Signs, Symptoms and Solutions

- If your hot water heater has metal piping into the chimney, it's likely mid-efficient. That doesn't mean it's old and may not be worth the investment to change immediately until you begin to have issues.
- A standing pilot light in the furnace, one that keeps burning even when the furnace is not running, is a big signal you've got a less efficient furnace. Look for a tag or date stamp; a 15 to 20 year life span is typical for a furnace. Cracked heat exchangers can be a serious problem, but difficult for a homeowner to detect. Annual maintenance eases concerns and the mechanic will let you know if there's still warranty coverage. It's a good reminder of the importance of CO₂ detectors.
- Homeowners should consider a 'multiple stage' or 'modulating furnace.' The longer it runs, the more efficient it is. Every time it stops and starts—short cycling—it requires gas and time to warm up the heat exchanger cells. The metal expands and contracts, shortening the furnace's lifespan.
- Direct-Current (DC) powered furnaces are more energy efficient than the traditional Alternating Current (AC) variety. Less energy is required to run a DC fan motor over a period of time.
- A heat recovery ventilator is a good product to rid the home of stale air, ensuring a supply of fresh air. Grants are available and this is a wise addition to any mechanical system.

"It doesn't matter what you do with high efficient products if the envelope of your house is poor. You can spend money on your mechanical system, but you lose a good portion of heat if your attic is not insulated well. Make sure you address all the issues to achieve the highest efficiency possible," Jayden advises. "Because of the EnerGuide for Houses program and grants available, there are a lot more educated homeowners and contractors." 

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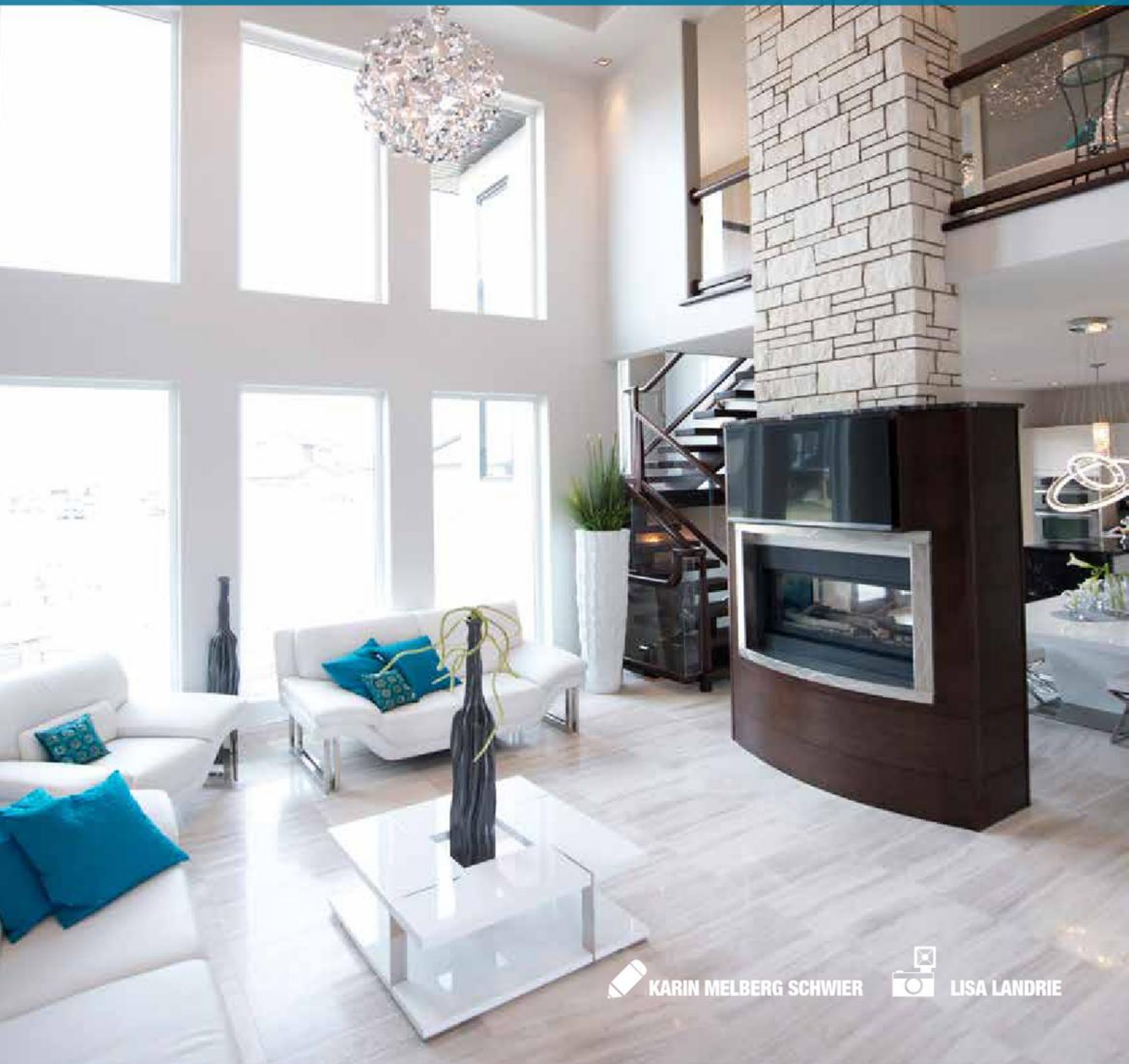
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KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER



LISA LANDRIE



There are some houses with that extra something. When you walk in, you know. It's a feeling, an ambiance inside and out that transports you to a special place. Achieving that doesn't just happen; builders, designers and decorators all need to share a vision to get it right.

"We love the homes we've seen in Las Vegas," says Rhonda Iula of Decora Homes, "and we want to show people they don't have to build something ordinary." If you've seen something you love, she explains, whether it's a stunning condo in Hawaii, a California beach house, or a glittering Las Vegas hotel suite, you can incorporate those elements here on the prairies. When Ricky and Rhonda Iula launched Decora Homes six years ago, they wanted to build homes unlike others on the market.

Using inspiration from their own travels, Decora recently built a home in Saskatoon with the fitting name "Crystal," an ode to Vegas sparkle and shine. This home strives for the perfect fusion of function and feel: elegant, sophisticated, and "an extreme house

for entertaining." Built in Rosewood, this home blends the glitz and glam found on the Strip, and yet the sophisticated entertainment lifestyle of an open California layout. The Iulas knew they wanted to recreate the upscale feeling of the city, but it was a visit to California that completed their vision for the Crystal.

Bringing the Glam Back Home

"People say you can't have a California style house in Saskatchewan, but you certainly can if you use the correct materials," Rhonda says, like doors and windows manufactured for prairie weather. The entire back south facing wall of the Crystal is composed of sliding eight-foot windows that open onto a deck with a covered outdoor living space, a hot tub and barbecue area. That "California feel" comes from so much natural light and open, bright spaces. It almost cries out "come on over to the party!"

Rhonda and Ricky were always drawn to California homes they've visited. The abundance of natural light and

space open to the outdoors provided a lot of the inspiration for the Crystal. "We felt we could create that kind of atmosphere in Saskatchewan. People walk into the Crystal and their jaws drop. 'Wow, this feels like California!' We love that," says Rhonda, "because it was just the feeling we were going for."

Having a Feel For It

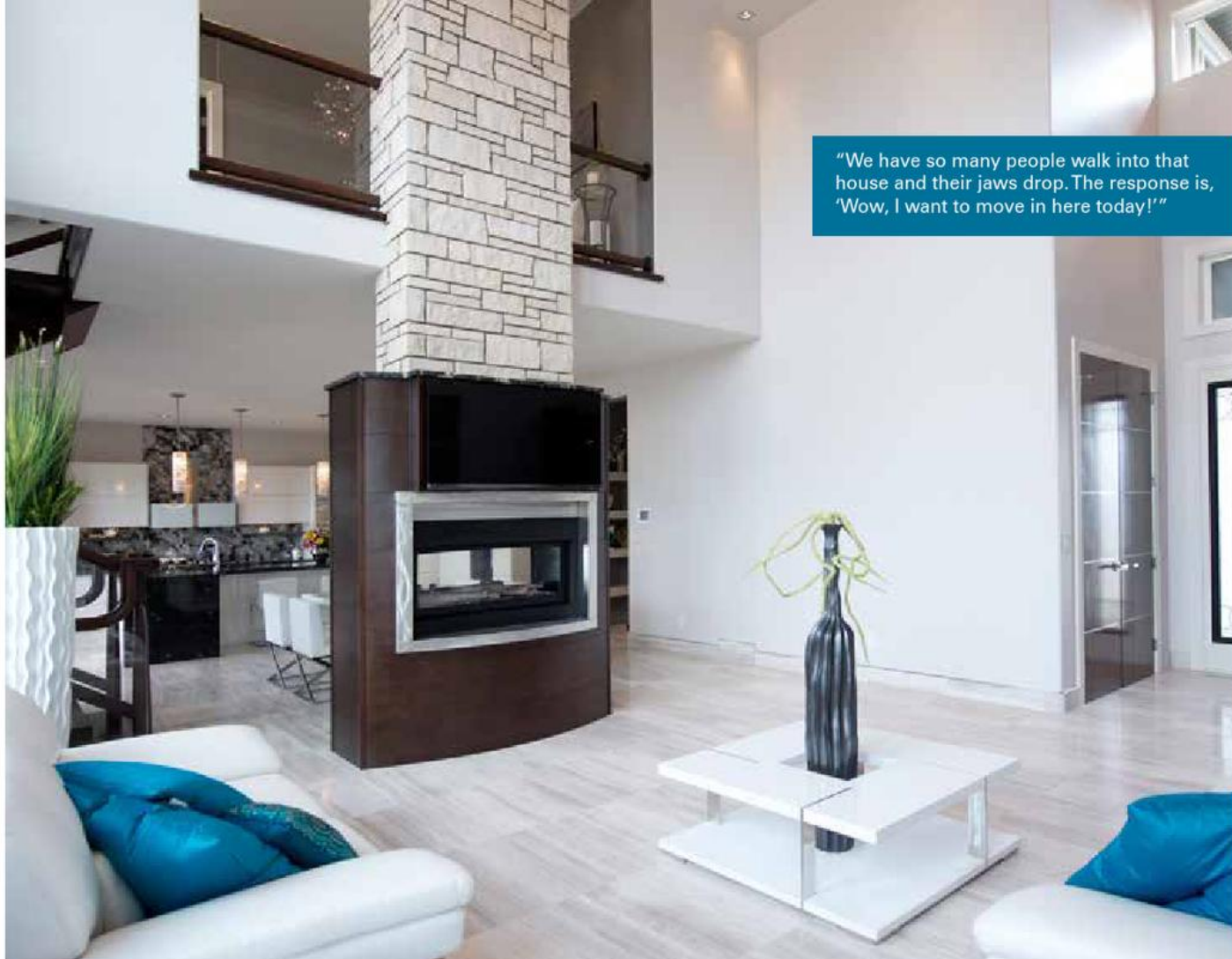
Creating the decadent feel of Las Vegas or Los Angeles isn't just a matter of screaming the obvious with fixtures and décor. That blunt approach creates a theme, but one that can become exhausting and trite. Subtler yet rich influences should suggest a locale. Rhonda says textured wall coverings are an important element drawn from upscale Las Vegas hotels.

"In Vegas, texture is the most noticeable thing to me," she says. "The wall paneling we have in our own home was something we saw there. I think hotel staff in Las Vegas see us and say, 'They're going to be touching everything again.'" 

HOW TO DO 'INSPIRED' WITHOUT DÉCOR OVERLOAD

What happens in Vegas doesn't have to stay there any more! Saskatoon interior decorator and design specialist Chantelle Butterfield is all for bringing glitz and glamour to local homes. The trick to it is to take inspiration from the glitter that defines a place like Las Vegas without going too over-the-top.

Chantelle, owner of Funktional Space, says it's important for the homeowner and decorator to work in concert on a look perhaps not locally typical or traditional. If "Las Vegas inspired" is desired, does that mean the opulence of the Stratosphere restaurant with its crystal and neon, or suave Wayne Newton with ostrich feather-coiffed showgirls?



Unique lighting fixtures set a range of moods. In the Crystal, recessed LED lighting in bulkheads, opulent chandeliers and funky globes, even neon in the basement bar area reminiscent of Vegas nightlife. Exquisite floor coverings like travertine marble and Centiva cost more, but the effect is mesmerizing.

"Ricky and I always look for inspiration when we travel," Rhonda explains. "We know that by using the right materials designed to meet the demands of the prairies, we can work with influences we love to create something spectacular."

Find That 'Speaks to Me' Piece

"You really need to define the style, select an inspirational piece and move from there,"




explains Chantelle. She staged the sumptuous \$1.3 million Decora Homes "Crystal," adding the finishing sparkle to this exquisite home. "When Rhonda and I began staging their stunning property with a backdrop of white and black, greys, she had a specific colour—turquoise—she wanted to build on." Recessed lighting, jaw dropping lighting fixtures, and neon touches create the energetic yet sophisticated mood.

Creating "the vibe to put you in that energetic, fun Las Vegas mood" led to several adjectives to guide décor selections: sharp, metallic, glittery, funky, shiny, crisp, over the top, unexpected, and possibly the most important, adult and sexy. "It's not a location. It's an energy you're trying to capture. Vegas is fun, buzzing and alive. The high end elegance, glam and romance of the Bellagio or the Palazzo is really what we captured in this home."

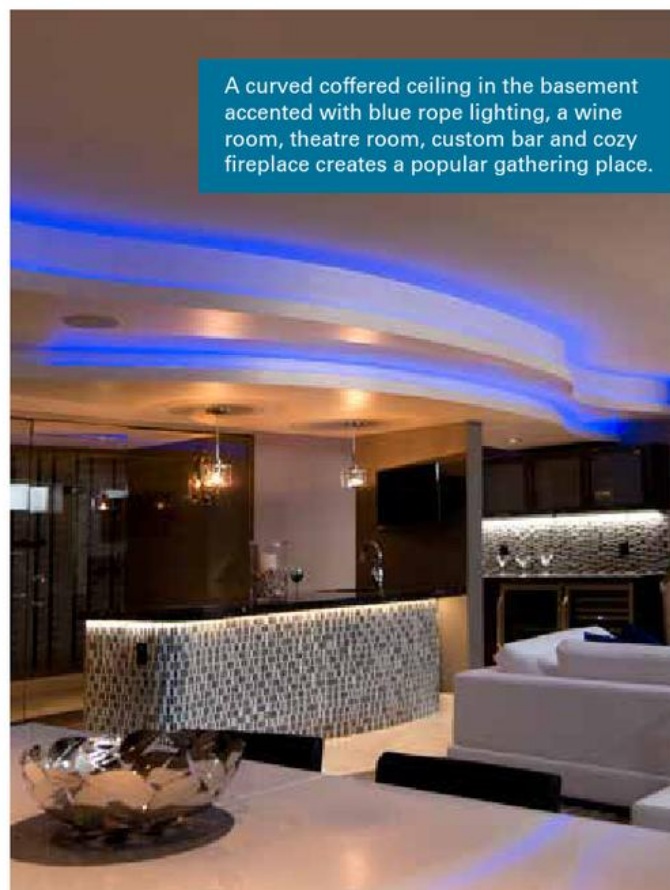
Too Much is Really Too Much

Chantelle cautions people about taking an inspiration too far. You don't want a West Edmonton Mall theme room, she says. You want a feel.

"You don't want the disco ball. You want a light fixture that reminds you a little of the glitter!" she laughs. If, say, you want your living space to reflect that once-in-a-lifetime African safari, less is more.

"I wouldn't wear leopard pants, a zebra print top, a big fur collar, and cowry and bone necklace, and I wouldn't do that to a room! You want the influence to come from an African tapestry throw or sculpture you brought home. You don't want to end up looking like Peggy Bundy! And you don't want your home to become a cartoon." 

Karin Melberg Schwier



A curved coffered ceiling in the basement accented with blue rope lighting, a wine room, theatre room, custom bar and cozy fireplace creates a popular gathering place.



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A photograph of a steampunk-themed bathroom. The wall is covered in dark wallpaper with a repeating gold-colored floral pattern. A large, dark-framed mirror is mounted on the wall, reflecting a window with multiple panes. Two wall sconces with glowing, warm-toned light bulbs are visible. To the right, a white ceramic toilet is mounted on a complex system of copper pipes and valves. The overall aesthetic is a blend of Victorian-era design and industrial machinery.

STEAMPUNK RETRO FUTURISM

THE “NEXT BIG THING” IN VICTORIAN, INDUSTRIAL



 **KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER**

Photo Compliments of Andre Rothblatt

Imagine the romantic Victorian era breath-defying corsets, bustles, top hats, button boots and velvet tufted fainting couches. Got it? Then mash that up with steam-powered gadgets, iron gears and cogs, brass whirlygigs and industrial machinery and fantastical flying contraptions. That'll give you a taste of the intriguing steampunk culture. It's what House Beautiful called "the next big thing" in design.

The Steampunk Paradox

Cara DeLong, Interior Design Consultant with Metric Design Centre, explains that the trend has evolved from a subgenre of science fiction in 1980s and now crops up in art, music, movies, fashion and design. Science fiction writer K.W. Jeter first coined 'Steampunk' as he searched for a way to describe works like H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine* and his own *Morlock Night* set in Victorian times but paradoxically in a futuristic world. Sort of a throwback to romantic 19th Century England combined with a throwforward to a fantasy steam-powered industrial age.

"'Industrial goth' is a good way to describe it," explains Cara. "Steampunk takes industrial trend elements like iron, wood, leather and glass and brings in some more traditional finishes like copper and polished brass. It takes the craftsmanship of the Victorian aesthetic and attaches an edgier, more gothic approach. Sort of a post-Apocalyptic Victorian."

Wear It

Saskatoon novelist and poet Jeanette Lynes is a steampunk fan.

"I love the combination of playful and gritty, and I love the fashion costumery side of it



"I love the playfulness of it and the fashion side of it with lavish Victorian styles," says novelist and poet Jeanette Lynes "The DIY repurposing is really appealing; you go to the Restore, buy a bunch of old gears and cogs and make jewelry. Throw on some aviator goggles. It's fun."

Photo: Karin Melberg Schwier

with its lavish Victorian styles." Her novel, *The Factory Voice*, was set in a WWII military aircraft plant, so she has an affinity with mechanical aspect of the trend. Jeanette loves the idea of repurposing old machinery bits and pieces to create sculpture, jewelry, and even working gadgets.

Decorate It


"It's definitely a subculture, so people who see it as an

alternative lifestyle probably aren't thrilled to see it go mainstream," Cara says. "But I wouldn't say that most people are adopting the style as a full-on culture. Some may feel like they were living on a movie set if they were completely surrounded in the steampunk style.

Instead they adopt the trend by using the materials like wood and metals like copper and brass, mixing traditional Victorian furniture with

industrial pieces, and placing accessories throughout; a pair of polished brass aviator goggles or a wall clock made up of exposed machinery. This makes the trend accessible and livable, and provides great conversation pieces."

Build It

Builder Terry Kostyna of Northern Sky Developments is looking forward to incorporating industrial, 



"Our strength, the timber frame home with timber posts and beams, lends itself well to the industrial look. Normally, we use a lot of wooden pegs for connections. You can switch that out for bolts, metal connectors and rivets for the more industrial look," says Terry Kostyka of Northern Sky Developments.

Photo Compliments of Hamill Creek

CINEMATIC STEAMPUNK

Films that illustrate the aesthetic include *Sherlock Holmes* (the Robert Downey Jr. versions), *Hugo*, *Lemony Snicket: A Series of Unfortunate Events*, *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*, *Wild Wild West* with Will Smith, and Tim Burton's *Sleepy Hollow*. While usually anachronistic Victorian, steampunk style can also spring from Medieval, Western, Industrial/Modern eras and alternate fantasy worlds.


steampunk elements particularly in his specialty, the timber frame home.

"Architecture using the high ceilings, big timber posts and beams lends itself well to the industrial look," says Terry. "Normally, we use a lot of wooden pegs for connections, but to go more steampunk industrial, you can switch that out for bolts, metal connectors and rivets." He says clients have asked for the warehouse district loft look of New York or Toronto, not knowing they are leaning toward steampunk design.

"I think it'll be all the rage, probably not the complete house in our part of the world, but pieces that suggests industrial factory salvage, repurposed decorative pieces like the brass contraptions that look like they should work!"

Lighting fixtures lead the subtler steampunk charge, Terry

says. More people ask for 'turn of the century manufacturing plant' elements; Edison bulbs with visible filaments, metal cages, cast steel, bronze rivets. "You can add industrial looking lighting without going over the top."

Still, he's waiting for that special customer who wants an entire home with steampunk flair. It would be timber frame and he'd use the North American craftsman style that was popular in a booming San Francisco of the 1800s. "I'd go with Victorian style trim, transoms over the doors, lots of bolts and rivets, metal braces, railing systems with doors that look like salvaged material. Add a high warehouse ceiling, hang a zeppelin and you're living in steampunk!" 

Karin Melberg Schwier

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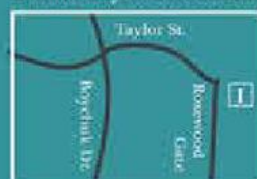
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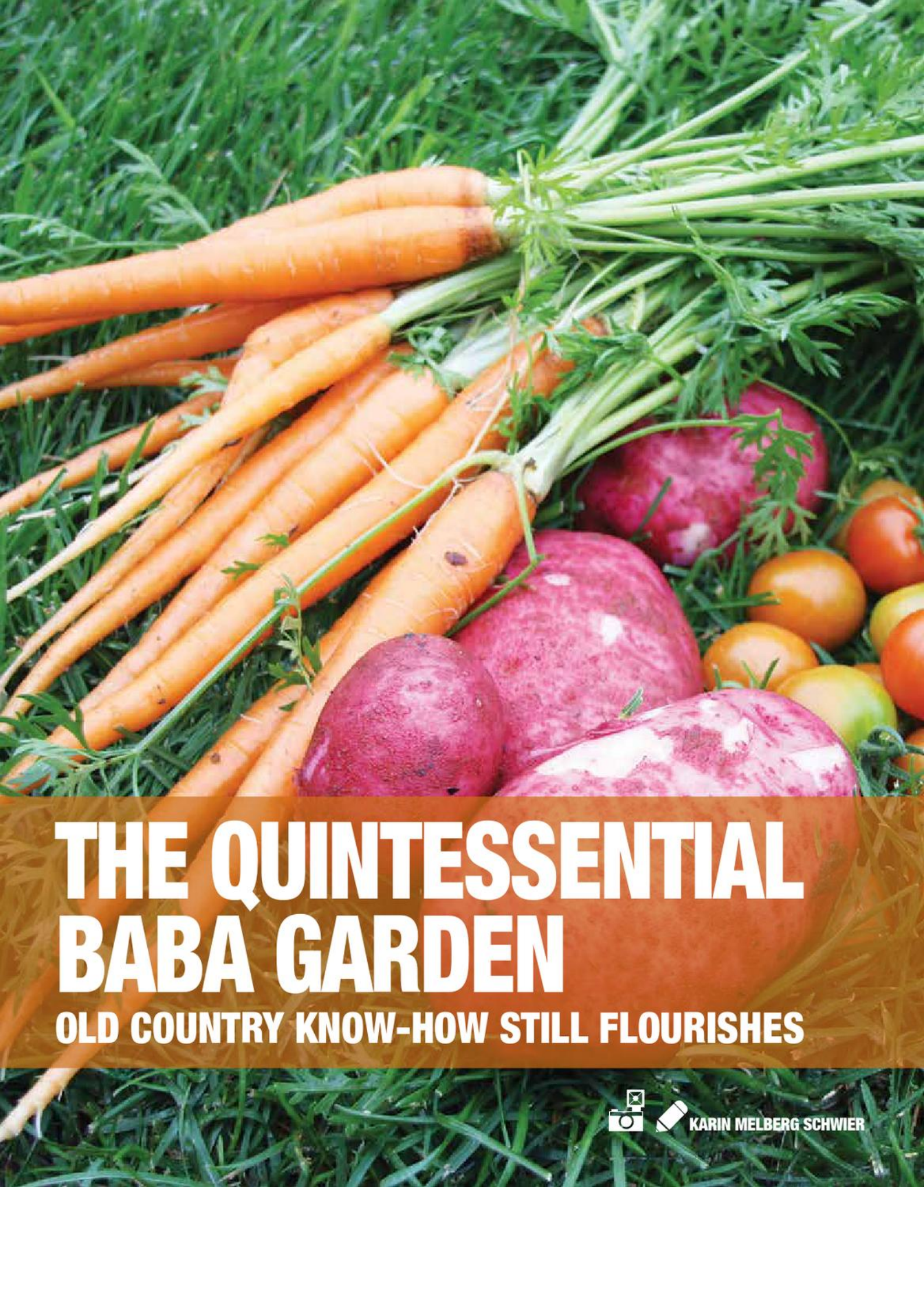
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KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER

Never plant cucumbers next to beets or potatoes. Never water the garden or pick lettuce in the daytime. And other baba approved tips.

"You know what," Rose Wasylenska says, more statement than question. She's stooped knee-deep in her rampant cucumber patch. "It's a sin to waste dirt." Rose, 78, cultivates all the nooks and crannies of her Avenue J backyard. "I got Sweet One Millions by the door and potatoes behind the shed."

Verdant rows of beets, lettuce, onion, garlic, sturdy tomatoes, stalks of dill with heads the size of saucers, regiments of hilled potatoes, raspberry canes heavy with red fruit. So plentiful a harvest that overstuffed bags are pressed into arms of fall visitors. All hallmarks of a baba—or a nonna, oma, or babka—who draws bounty from the soil as if by magic.

They are few and far between as the Old Country generation disappears, leaving young ones who want more house, less yard. But in Saskatoon's established neighbourhoods, one can still find the "baba garden." If idle hands are the Devil's playground, Satan wouldn't dare set foot in one. The tilling, composting, planting, weeding, and watering followed by canning and preserving keep babas going, some well into their 90s.

"Everybody says what you want to make such a big garden for?" Rose Wasylenska shrugs. "And I say what do you think? I'm going to just sit

here and die and do nothing?" Rose plants Ukrainian staples: onions, potatoes, carrots, beets, peas, cucumbers, dill. Oddly, no garlic; she's allergic.

On St. Lawrence Crescent, Ksenia Hrycuik dries bunches of garlic in her garage. Ksenia and husband Robert came from Hafford in 1979. They tend a large plot, "not as big as on the farm, but still." Raspberries are picked for jam or "just to eat with cream." She grows the staples, too, including horseradish to sour borscht. "There are ones I know in the seniors' home now so I take them fresh things that they don't have any more," she says.


"I'm starting to feel it," admits Ksenia. "I still like to do a little bit, then I have to sit down," she smiles. "It's good to get out and move around. And I like to make my pickles and jam."

Violet Huculiak and husband Mike came from Wakaw 53 years ago. She tends her backyard garden in Hudson Bay Park.

"It's relaxing. I know where my vegetables come from. I like to watch it coming up," she says. "It's something you've got to get up and go do, even if it's just a little spot."

Garden Know-How

Trending toward big houses, city gardens are no longer as common. "It's a shame," Violet says. "People are busy. Some just don't know how. But if you grow up on the farm, you just do your chores. By the time you were grown up, you had all that under your belt."

'All that' includes a host of garden know-how. Don't plant the same thing in the same spot each year. Horseradish planted by raspberries prevents suckering. Avoid chemicals. 

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Sisters Alice Kripki, 96, at left, and Vicki Chunik, 90, survey Vicki's back yard garden. "You need to get your hands dirty!" says Alice. "And your feet! It's good for you."

Marigolds ward off bugs. Worms are good. Babas agree that, like children and husbands, soil must be fed, so add leaves and grass clippings.

"Never plant cucum-bers next to beets or potatoes," Rose Wasylenska cautions. "They won't mature, you won't get no cucumbers. Beets have different aroma, potato stalks have a smell; when you go among them you can tell. Cucumbers don't like that."

Never water the garden or pick lettuce in the daytime. "Just in the morning when it's cool. It's sweet then," she adds. "I get up early at 3:30, quarter to 4 when I get a channel from Rome. I pray for ones who don't get enough to eat."

Unheard of is a visitor to a baba's home leaving without a kolache, a bag of holopchi, beetniks or an

armful of produce. It's "a sign of special love and you know what," says Rose. "How perfect He makes everything in the garden." Well, almost

live in their own homes are still hard-wired to plant. Mary Seiter, Tilly Osachoff and Gloria Hrabowy have Ilarion Residence apartments. The

"A key group of immigrants to Saskatchewan were the Ukrainians," says City Archivist Jeff O'Brien. "They were recruited in the late 1800s and early 1900s by federal immigration agents to come help open the prairie west." Most broke 160-acre homesteads and didn't come to the cities until the early 1940s. Most settled "where smaller houses and smaller prices on the city's west side attracted many."

everything. She tried "that new fancy seed tape. Nothing come up! I guess God don't like seed tape!"

Even babas who no longer

city cultivated a community garden across the street; they claimed plots.

"It's so nice to come and watch things grow, it feels

so good," says Mary, 92, who raised her family—and a big garden—near Davidson. "My kids say I shouldn't have garden no more, but what am I gonna do? Sit in the house and bawl? I think it's healthy. You can't buy good stuff in the store, it's all chemical."


The Thoroughly Modern Baba

Rare today is the romanticized baba, a babushka-ed apple doll-faced farmwoman of the Baltic countryside. Violet Huculiak's chil-dren tell her, 'A rocking chair is not for you,' they say. "They're taking me to Vegas, if you believe it. These days babas go everywhere!" she laughs. Hardly typical either is Rose Wasylenska, four-term and last mayor of Uranium City, still with all the ceremonial chain and mace to prove it.

In her nineties, Mary Seiter, too, is the thoroughly modern baba. Perhaps a correlation between gardening and a long, healthy life? Dressed in a capri pant outfit, she climbs off her cherry red scooter, plants her red-toenailed feet in the dirt and pokes her cane into a patch of cucumbers.

"I make dill pickles, zucchini relish. I got onions, garlic. See those beet leaves? You steam them, a little butter. Salt, pepper." She pats her forehead. "Ah, that is so good!"

On Avenue T South, sisters Alice Kripki, 96, and Vicki Chunik, 90, live side by side. Widows for over two decades, the pair are back and forth in each other's yards. A third sister, Nellie, lives nearby but with Parkinson's, she's given up gardening.

"I got a bad heart and arthritis. I get dizzy spells. It's no fun getting old, but I 



Rose Wasylenska shows off the fruits—and vegetables—of her labour in her basement larder. "Stuff grows so good, I give it away to the priests, my neighbours. I make own sauerkraut, dill pickles, pickled beets, sweet pickles, perogies, cabbage rolls. My neighbour says it's like a store down here!"

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do a little bit," Alice grins. "I got peas, a couple rows. Take a look at my beets. Carrots and lettuce, potatoes. And my flowers are so nice!"

Vicki takes her sister's arm.

"I grow good corn, lots of beets, cucumbers, tomatoes, even a few grapes," says Vicki. "I had bigger, but it got to be too much. Now I work an hour and rest two," she laughs.

"We have to rest, just like summerfallow!" Alice laughs and sings a Ukrainian ditty about a woman who calls her husband an ox. "I like to sing in the garden!"

Advice for novice gardeners? "Get good seeds," says Vicki.

"Good soil, you have to have," Alice adds. "Weed it and water. Do the work, that's all," she insists. "You need to get your hands dirty... and your feet!"

She looks forward to spring, just as she has for decades.

"Will I have a garden next year? Oh sure! As long as I live!" She pats her chest. "My kids want to put sod over it. They don't want me to work so hard," she smiles. "But we'll see."

On Louise Street, Mary Seiter climbs on her scooter and waves her cane like a wand over her plot. 🇵🇸



Originally from Smuts, Gloria Hrabowy tends a plot across the street from the Ilarion Residence. "I had a garden for over 50 years," she says. "You had to if you wanted to eat."

BABA GARDEN ESSENTIALS

VEGETABLES

Garlic
Beets
Cucumber
Potatoes
Peas
Carrots
Onions
Winter onions
Dill
Rutabaga
Turnips
Horseradish
Raspberries
Rhubarb

FLOWERS

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Dill: freeze the feathers "to get more taste out of it" and use in borscht.

Carrot tops: make long-lasting greenery in cut flower arrangements.

Horseradish: Add this leaf instead of alum when making pickles to keep cucumbers crisp.

"I like to see who tells me I can't have my cucumbers and zucchini and onions any more!" she laughs. "They'll carry me out barefeet first from my garden! Young people should get in the dirt a little bit. If you need help, you better ask a baba quick before it's too late!"

Watch for the Saskatoon HOME summer issue feature on community and container gardening. (H)

Karin Melberg Schwier




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CRAIG SILLIPHANT

PETE LAWRENCE

HOME Food: Il Salici Ristorante

MINT-BASIL PESTO ADDS BRIGHT FLAVOUR TO SPRING LAMB

The trick to amazing Italian food lies in mastering the art of simplicity. More than a few people mistake this uncomplicated approach to mean that Italian food is easier to make than cuisine featuring more intense preparation and technique. However, keeping a light touch is a lot harder than it seems.

Think of it this way – when you're working with just a few flavours, the food is naked. If you only have three ingredients, and one of them is off, it throws the whole dish out of whack and leaves you with a bad taste in your mouth.

Chef Robert Martin of Il Salici Ristorante at The Willows Golf & Country Club invited me to the Il Salici kitchen to teach me how to make a simple, but wonderful *Carre di Agnello con mint-basil pesto* (rack of lamb with mint-basil pesto). I showed up ready to be wowed and to learn some new technique, and was welcomed with grace into Chef Martin's kitchen.

Most people might think of a heavy pasta as an 'Italian' meal, and while I would love the chance to have a pro show me how to make fresh pasta from scratch, I instead asked Chef Martin to create something that would be a great dish to serve as we crawl out of our winter hibernation holes to celebrate the coming of spring, hence the rack of lamb with basil pesto.

So what makes this such a spring dish?

Well, basil is a spring flavour, because it's light and fresh (in winter you'd serve a heavier tapenade, perhaps). And a pesto made with basil and mint should refresh one's palate on a warm, humid spring day.

Lamb itself is often labeled as 'spring' lamb; in ye olden days, if a lamb was born in the winter, there was little chance it would survive until the following year, so most were planned as a spring cycle of birth. These days, butcher shops around the world carry

fresh lamb in spring, and in fact, spring is even referred to as lambing season.

Lamb itself has been the gift that keeps on giving for thousands and thousands of years, providing us with meat, wool, milk (and cheese), and even skin for parchment. They're also great for ritual sacrifice to your gods! They've been utilized as early as 10,000 years ago in Central Asia and have been a dietary staple and textile source in Asia, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Oddly enough, they haven't taken off in North America to a large degree, though the Spanish brought the first sheep here in the 1500s. Their introduction into commercial cattle herds caused social divisions and heated conflict, giving the woolly little fellas a bad reputation. However, that reputation has been slowly turning around as the foodie movement takes hold in the West and those like Chef Martin are increasingly adding it to their menus.

Though Chef Martin first claims his background is shrouded in the mystery of the Witness Protection Program, I manage to get him to tell me that he trained in Toronto for a hard knock German and worked all over Canada before recently taking the helm at Il Salici. Chef Martin is adding his touch to the Il Salici menu, especially through the use of fresh, local ingredients when possible.

"What a difference fresh ingredients make," he says, showing me how to make a pesto from scratch that we'll rub on the lamb.

In terms of the Il Salici menu, Chef Martin is keeping the Italian concept, but changing the game up, putting more flair into his food.

"I like to dissect a recipe and put my own spin on it," he says. "I like to play with different things."

After we make the fresh pesto, with everything from walnuts to basil (see recipe),



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Chef Martin shows me how to trim a bit of fat off the meat. We then sprinkle salt and pepper on the meat and sauté it in a skillet in oil to get it nice and brown. We put the lamb, meat side up, onto a baking sheet and liberally spread the homemade pesto over each rack of ribs. And into the oven it goes! We're shooting for a nice medium rare.

On the side, we prepare the simplest of vegetables, and just cook them lightly in oil. Fingerling potatoes, baby carrots, fresh asparagus, and baby golden beets.


"We want to use light, digestive foods to offset the meat," explains Chef Martin.

Once served, the meal looks majestic, the ribs arranged in a crown with the vegetables filling out the plate. I bite into the lamb and it practically sings; the meat is perfectly cooked and the simple pesto adds a certain kick of brightness, while still letting the delicious lamb be the hero of the dish.

In terms of the vegetables, nothing is overdressed and you can taste the spring freshness in each element on the plate. There are no sauces or thick butters to muddy the natural flavours of spring renewal (don't get me wrong, such things have their delicious place at the right times). The most interesting vegetable to me is the baby golden beet, which oddly enough, I've never had before. This tasty beet can be found at Superstore and other local produce isles. It tastes like a regular red beet, but has a much subtler flavour, which I enjoy immensely.

Aside from the time it takes in the oven, Chef Martin has taught me how to make this dish in a very short period of time, again showing how

simple it is. Carre di Agnello con mint-basil pesto with vegetables is perfect for a busy family that wants to spend less time cooking, and more time eating and laughing together. Remember, you do have to handle those few flavours with care to ensure the proper balance in the meal. But once you bite into it, you'll still find it hard to believe that something so simple could be so amazingly tasty.

And of course, if you'd rather take the night off in the kitchen, you can still enjoy dishes like this and more Italian food with a twist at Il Salici at The Willows, where Chef Robert Martin and his team are creating new ways to tempt your palate. 

Craig Silliphant



INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups lightly packed fresh mint leaves
- 3/4 cup lightly packed fresh basil leaves
- 1/2 cup walnuts, toasted
- 2 tablespoons freshly grated Parmesan
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 2 garlic cloves
- 3/4 teaspoon salt, plus more for seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more for seasoning
- 1/3 cup plus 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 (1 1/2-pounds each) racks of lamb, trimmed and frenched

DIRECTIONS

Blend the mint, basil, nuts, cheese, lemon juice, garlic, 3/4 teaspoon of salt, and 1/2 teaspoon of pepper in a food processor until the herbs are finely chopped. With the machine running, gradually blend in 1/3 cup of oil until the mixture is smooth and creamy.

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.

Generously sprinkle the lamb racks with salt and pepper. Heat the remaining 2 tablespoons oil in a grill pan or heavy large skillet over high heat. Place 1 lamb rack in the skillet and cook just until brown, about 3 minutes per side. Transfer the lamb rack meat side up on a heavy large baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining 2 lamb racks. Spread the pesto over each rack.

BAKING TIME: (depending on oven)

- 40 minutes for well done
- 25-30 minutes for medium
- 20 minutes for rare

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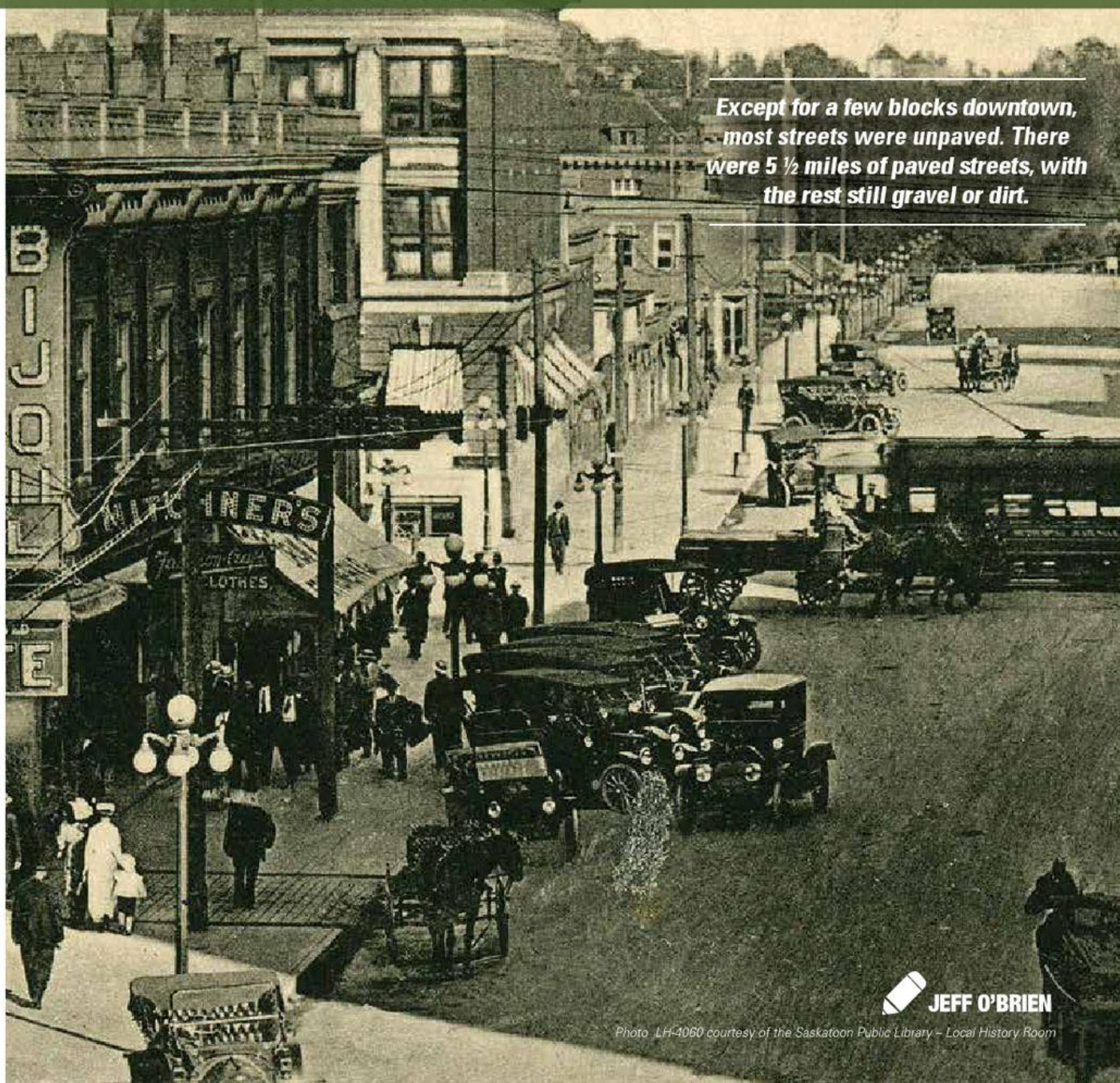
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HOMEtown Reflections

A TIME TRAVELLER'S GUIDE TO SASKATOON IN 1913

SASKATOON 1913

Except for a few blocks downtown, most streets were unpaved. There were 5 ½ miles of paved streets, with the rest still gravel or dirt.



JEFF O'BRIEN

Photo LH-4060 courtesy of the Saskatoon Public Library – Local History Room



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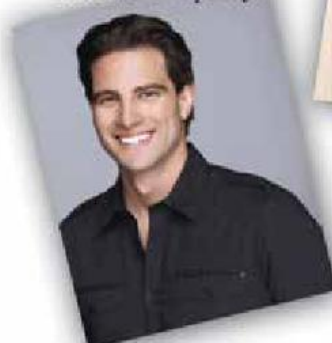


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The Flanagan – later the Senator – Hotel on 21st Street in 1913.

Photo LH-777 courtesy of the Saskatoon Public Library – Local History Room

If we could travel back to the Saskatoon of a century ago, what would it be like? Different, surely. Vastly smaller with far fewer people. Fewer cars and more horses. More people walking, not quite so many driving around hunting for a parking spot. Quieter in some ways; in others, a lot livelier. But there would be important similarities, too, and it wouldn't have been such an alien landscape as one might expect.

Looking down 21st Street from the train station, a time traveller would find the scene strangely familiar, yet jarringly strange. Although the years have marked them, many of the buildings would have been recognizable to the modern

eye: the Senator Hotel (nee Flanagan), the Canada and the Avenue Buildings, Oddfellow's Hall (where Tusq is now) and the Saskatoon Club, to name

time traveller might be surprised to note the many single-family homes in the downtown, some of them quite elegant, and the string

showed 80% of the population to be of British extraction with various other groups trailing far behind. There was also a small but active Jewish population here, and an equally-small-but-thriving Chinese community, downtown on 19th Street and across the tracks in Riversdale.

That fall, 382 students enrolled at the University of Saskatchewan, up from 248 the year before. There were nearly 3,000 students in the elementary and high schools, more than double the year before. It is during this era that Saskatoon's beautiful "castle schools" were built, as well as the grand cathedrals on the riverbank. 

By May of 1913, Saskatoon had eight actual movie houses with a total of 4,200 seats.

a few. But at the end where the Bessborough should have been was only riverbank, with a clear view across to the heavily wooded bank on the other side. Saskatoon's iconic Castle by the River would not be built for another 20 years.

Wandering farther, the

of nice houses up Spadina past where construction was just beginning on the University Bridge. In 1913, downtown was a place for commerce, industry, and for people.

Demographically, Saskatoon was pretty much a British town in those days. The 1911 census

The midway at the Saskatoon Exhibition in 1913, by then moved to its current location at the end of Lorne Avenue.



Photo LH-2687 courtesy of the Saskatoon Public Library – Local History Room

Entertainments abounded. Saskatoon had all sorts of theatres in 1913, including the elegant, 1200-seat Empire Theatre, next to the Empire Hotel on 20th Street (nowadays the Lighthouse, an assisted living facility with an unfortunate 1960s façade covering its 1906 brickwork). Many of these were live theatres – Boris Karloff played at the Empire around this time with a theatre company out of Prince Albert – but by May of 1913, Saskatoon had eight actual movie houses with a total of 4,200 seats.

Swimming was still allowed in the river in 1913. Given the number of sewer outflows, a person might have wanted to head upstream a ways before considering a dip. There was golf at the Saskatoon Golf Club and skating (both the ice and the roller kind, depending on the season) at

the Auditorium Roller Rink on Spadina Crescent, as well as the various outdoor rinks, and on the river, of course. There was curling (a brand new rink had been just built at Avenue B and Spadina), tennis, bowling,

Transportation was markedly different in 1913. Photographs from this era show a preponderance of horse-drawn vehicles, very few cars and a great many pedestrians. Although one may

streetcars commenced operation on January 1, 1913.

Except for a few blocks downtown, most streets were unpaved. There were 5 ½ miles of paved streets, with the rest still gravel or dirt. That there were 54 miles of concrete sidewalks indicates, perhaps, how much more important pedestrian traffic was than vehicular. Or perhaps it speaks to the distaste those pedestrians felt for the inevitable by-products of horse-drawn transportation. “Streets” out on the fringe were rather informal things – rarely more than rutted tracks, criss-crossing the prairie from one scattered clump of homes or isolated shack to another, with complete disregard for niceties like property lines and survey markers. Although the city stretched from Avenue W to Preston, most people lived close to downtown and

Most importantly from a transportation perspective, this was the year public transit came to town as Saskatoon’s streetcars commenced operation on January 1.

baseball, football (the soccer kind), cricket, and everything else. There was the Exhibition, recently moved to its current location at the end of Lorne Street, and there were displays, parties, concerts and all the unsupervised play any child could care to indulge in.

find pictures of airplanes in the skies above Broadway in those days, they’re all fakes. The only things in Saskatoon’s skies in 1913 were birds and children’s kites. Most importantly from a transportation perspective, this was the year public transit came to town as Saskatoon’s

the river. Saskatoon's vast outlying districts were largely indistinguishable from any other bit of rolling prairie.

Residential areas like Idylwyld, Nutana and Caswell Hill displayed a mix of housing styles. But except for the dirt streets and spindly trees, the time traveller would find them reassuringly familiar, as many of those houses still stand today. Cutting through a back alley (always the best way to get the flavour of a neighbourhood) our time traveller would quickly notice one big difference between 1913 and today: the number of houses having little buildings in the back with crescent moons cut out of their doors. Saskatoon had

begun laying water and sewer lines in 1906, but the decades-long battle waged by public health authorities against the outdoor privy didn't begin in earnest until the 1920s. As well, barns, stables, chicken coops and similar outbuildings were also common in those days, when rules about livestock in city limits were quite different.

Like today, Saskatoon in 1913 had a housing problem. Although there were many grand homes for rich businessmen, Saskatoon's poorer folks had to suffer the highest rental rates in Canada. Rent for a decent house close in was \$75-\$100 a month; a shack on the outskirts, without sewer, water or sidewalks, could go for \$25. Even the

highest paid tradesmen were making no more than \$40 for a 50-hour work week. For unskilled labour, it was more like \$10-\$15. That was for men. A female nurse or teacher might make \$20-\$25 per week, but the average women's wage was under ten dollars. For single people, a good room was around \$15 a month, with another \$25 for board. "Foreigners" – non-English speaking immigrants, often Central European – were invariably on the low end of the wage scale. One woman recalled living with her family in a three-room shack – the family in one room, six male boarders in another, and another fellow sleeping in the kitchen. It was the only

way they could afford to pay the rent.

Then, as now, Saskatoon was going through a boom. People were pouring in – the population had more than doubled in 1912, to 28,000 – and demand for housing far outstripped supply. Entering the city (by train, naturally; that's how you got here in 1913) our time traveller would see houses going up everywhere to accommodate all the newcomers, many of whom lived in tents while waiting for their homes to be built. It was this demand that drove house prices and rents so high. But in the spring of 1913 the real estate speculation and easy credit that had driven all this growth was collapsing. 🏠



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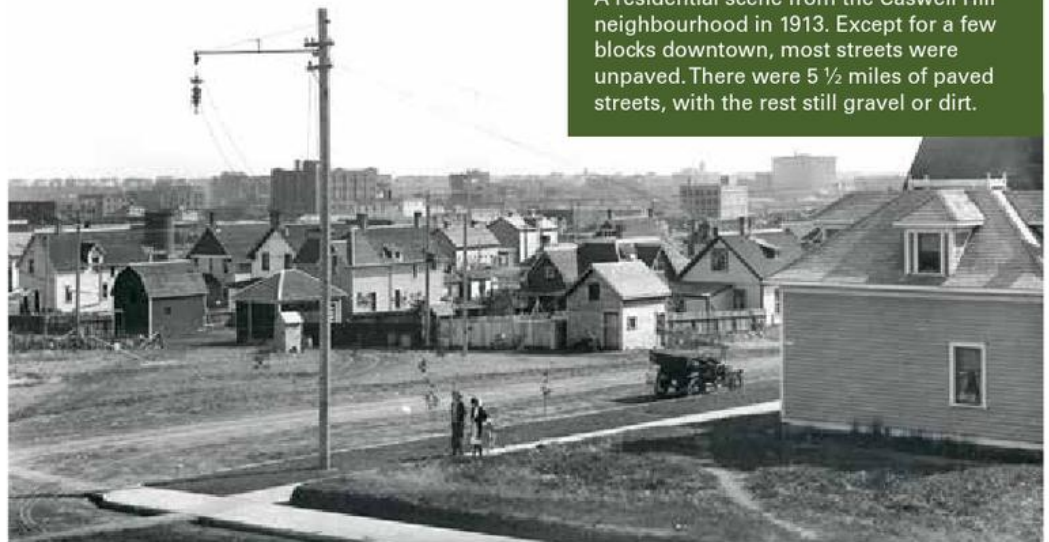
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Oh, everyone said it was just temporary, but walking around, the time traveller would notice that while construction still appeared to be going on, there were fewer workers than the number of scaffolds suggested, and some of the sites were even idle. Wandering out into the city's south east fringe, he would come across rows of recently-poured concrete house foundations, all abandoned to the elements; whole streets where the work had simply stopped.

Today, a century has gone by, and Saskatoon has experienced cycles of boom and bust, war and peace, prosperity and privation. We have grown and shrank, built up and torn down. But through it all, the city of 1913 – the product of the great boom and the even greater bust, which together laid the foundations for all that came after, can still be readily seen by anyone who stops to look. 

Jeff O'Brien



A residential scene from the Caswell Hill neighbourhood in 1913. Except for a few blocks downtown, most streets were unpaved. There were 5 ½ miles of paved streets, with the rest still gravel or dirt.

Photo LH 5254 courtesy of the Saskatoon Public Library – Local History Room



Looking south west across Riversdale in 1913.

Photo LH-3816 courtesy of the Saskatoon Public Library – Local History Room



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The Rumley today



It's Tool Time

THE TEN TOOLS EVERY HOME NEEDS (PLUS TWO BONUS SUGGESTIONS...)

Every home needs tools. All sorts of tools. So many, in fact, that the idea of whittling it down to the ten most absolutely, can't-live-without-them tools that everybody needs is a daunting prospect. But we here at Saskatoon HOME are nothing if not ambitious, and so here we go, in no particular order.

The Saskatoon HOME Top Ten Tools List

(Of course, if you're Mr. or Ms. ToolTime, with a garage full of every piece of hardware known to humankind since the first Neanderthal picked up the first handy rock, this

list won't help you. But for the rest, and especially for those just striking out on their own, read on.)

1. Hammer - Oh yeah... that old standby claw hammer. Gotta have it. Not a big heavy arm-deadening monster, or an itty-bitsy baby, good for nothing but hanging picture hooks in drywall, but a reasonably sized, all-purpose, nail driving machine. The number of things you can do with your basic claw hammer is immense. If the dinosaurs had bought hammers, they wouldn't be extinct today.

2. Snap-blade razor knife - You know them - those yellow-handled babies with the slide out blade that you "sharpen" by snapping the end off with a pair of pliers. Don't cheap out. Spend some money and get a good one. Or two. Then buy a big pack of replacement blades. No, don't thank us, just go get one.

3. Staple gun - You can't go wrong with a staple gun for attaching things to other things. Okay, probably you shouldn't attach your annoying brother-in-law to the wall by his lips. But if you

wanted to, you could. Inside and outside, the staple gun is indispensable.

4. Multi-driver - This is a screwdriver with a hollow handle that holds a bunch of different screwdriver bits. Individual screwdrivers are better, more reliable and last longer, but you'd need a bunch of them for all different types and sizes of screws there



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are. A good multi-driver is a convenient alternative.

5. Pliers - Pliers hold things, turn things and pull things. You need pliers. They come in all shapes and sizes, from tiny needle nose pliers to massive adjustable ones. A small kit with 3-4 different varieties will be very useful, but a simple pair of normal pliers will also serve.

6. Vice grips - These are adjustable, locking pliers. They're a great all-purpose tool for holding things really tight (while you bash them with your hammer, for example), unscrewing bolts that have gotten stripped, and all sorts of other jobs. They come in different sizes; pick the middle one. Be careful with these – the serrated jaws will strip the head off a stubborn nut or bolt in no time flat if you yank hard enough.

7. Crescent wrench - This is a wrench with adjustable jaws, and while it's not as good as having a huge box with all the exact wrenches for every possible nut or bolt you might encounter, it's also a lot easier to carry in your pocket. Again, go for the middle-sized one.

8. WD-40 - God invented WD-40 as His way of apologizing for inventing mosquitos. WD 40 loosens things, stops squeaks and cleans away gunk. It is beautiful. It's not a lubricant! But if you need to undo a bolt that's rusted tight, spray it with WD-40 and leave it for a few minutes, then give it a couple of whacks with whatever tool is handy and unscrew.

9. Pry bar - These things come in a variety of sizes, weights,

shapes and purposes and are sometimes called wrecking bars or nail pullers, depending on their basic function. But the standard-issue, flat, 18" kind, usually painted black, is so wonderfully all-purpose that once you get it, you won't know how you lived without it. You can pry things off (like

baseboard and mouldings), pull things out (like big, honking framing nails) and lift heavy things up so you can slide other things under them.

10. Cordless electric drill - This is the only power tool on our list, and you'll understand why as soon as you bring it home. With the right bit installed you can go anywhere, drilling holes and screwing screws to your heart's content. These things start at around \$50 and get rapidly more expensive. You definitely want one that comes with a spare battery, 



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a charger and a case, and as powerful as you can afford. Screw and drill bits you can buy separately, if necessary. \$150 is a reasonable price to pay, so you might want to arrange for someone to give you this for Christmas or a birthday.

11. Yes, we promised only ten things. But you also need **duct tape**.

12. Tape measure - A good one, so the first time you accidentally let the tape spring back, the end doesn't snap off.

Okay, that's it, we're done now. 

Jeff O'Brien

HAVE AN IDEA

for a Top 10 List you would like to see for your home? Gardening tools, or cleaning supplies perhaps? Email your idea to info@saskatoon-home.ca. Subject: Top 10. We look forward to hearing from you!



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We regret we cannot accommodate children under the age of 16
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